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**WORLD OF SPORT**  
Norman's  
Masters  
Catastrophe  
It's ALL in the  
WORLD OF SPORT  
TODAY

## US begins diplomatic push to stop fighting

THE Clinton administration yesterday undertook what it called "intense efforts" to soothe the Israel-Lebanon crisis, with Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoning Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Lebanese Premier Rafik Hariri, and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara in a bid to bring an end to the Hizbullah attacks.

stop its attacks and, at the same time, made it clear he does not think the Lebanese government has the capability to physically stop them.

**DAVID MAKOVSKY, HILLEL KUTTLER, and agencies**  
Israeli and American officials described Christopher's calls as an initiative to reach an arrangement among the three sides that would halt hostilities, but refused to describe what might be in the offing.

tacks on northern Israel," an administration official said. "There are certain different addresses, and one of them is certainly Syria."

ated settlement to halt the fighting. There were unconfirmed reports that Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was flying to Damascus, a sign taken by senior officials in Jerusalem to mean that Teheran wants to stiffen Syrian resistance to any US-brokered diplomatic settlement.



Paratroopers from the honor guard light memorial candles at last night's Yad Vashem ceremony, which began Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. (Brian Hendler)

## Yad Vashem ceremony opens Holocaust Day

**PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman** warned Israel's enemies last night that "if they wear our patience too thin, [they will suffer from] the long arm of the IDF."

nation which can defend itself... The lessons of the Holocaust are unforgettable. Never again will the Jewish people be left totally defenseless in the face of its enemies."

"Israel is a nation that despises anything that Hitlerism represented... The Jewish code of ethics will ensure... that fanatic fringe elements which take the name of Zionism in vain will not be permitted to deflect it from the course chartered by those visionaries, the fathers of Zionism."

The ceremony - which was attended by British Defense Minister Michael Portillo and French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette - began with the lowering of the national flag to half-mast as an IDF honor guard presented arms and Yad Vashem International Chairman Yosef Burg lit the beacon.

## Khaled, Hawatmeh can attend PNC meetings

THE government has allowed airplane hijacker Leila Khaled and Nayef Hawatmeh, heads of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to enter the Palestinian autonomous areas for the coming Palestinian National Council meeting.

cause the last list of 60 only arrived yesterday. The list includes George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who has said he will not come. A separate list includes 96 observers, who did not vote.

## March COL Index up 1%

THE Cost of Living Index rose by 1 percent in March, in line with expectations, but well above the pace required to meet the government's annual inflation target, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

## Agency emissary stabbed in Budapest

AN Afghani health inspector for a Jewish school in Budapest stabbed the school's Israeli principal yesterday morning. The inspector, Ahmed Bur, later told police that after hearing on the news that Israelis were killing Moslem children in Lebanon he had decided to kill an Israeli.

into Taub's office early yesterday morning with a 30-centimeter-long knife he had bought the previous day. Secretaries in a nearby office heard Taub cry for help and summoned several of the older students, who broke up the struggle.

## IAF hits Hizbullah strongholds and power station in Beirut

IN 220 sorties yesterday, the air force destroyed 15 buildings sheltering terrorists, seven vehicles belonging to terrorists, and two terrorist squads which had fired Katyushas into the North. Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i said at a press conference last night.

**ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies**  
ment of Lebanon that if this doesn't cease, we will continue to hit their infrastructure," said Brig. Gen. Shmuel Zucker, a divisional front commander.

turned fire and recorded at least one direct hit, the army said. The air force said that all aircraft returned safely to base. Yesterday evening, IDF aircraft and artillery poured concentrated fire on 10 villages north of the security zone which had been used to fire Katyushas.

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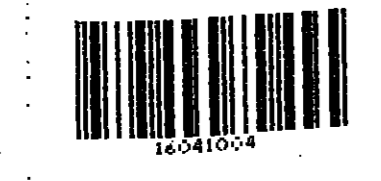
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# UNIFIL officer seriously wounded by Hizbullah

AN UNIFIL officer was seriously wounded in a clash with Hizbullah, when troops from the force's Fijian battalion tried to prevent gunmen from setting up a Katyusha launcher near a UN position north of the security zone.

The incident occurred shortly before the IDF issued a statement calling on UNIFIL to prevent Hizbullah using its positions as cover for their activities, in an effort to avoid IDF retaliation.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said the firefight occurred in Siddikin, east of Tyre. "Armed elements were setting up a Katyusha rocket launcher near a UN position in the area," he said. "The Fijians intervened. A patrol was sent to the area, and the soldiers asked them to desist. There was a confrontation and one of the Hizbullah people opened fire, seriously wounding a Fijian officer.

"The Fijian soldiers surrounded the Hizbullah people and there was an exchange of fire, which developed into a standoff."

UNIFIL officers said that later in the evening, as a result of nego-

DAVID RUDGE

tiations, with the aid of Lebanese Army, the Hizbullah squad withdrew. Goksel said the UN would lodge a strong protest with the appropriate authorities.

The UN position nearby has been swamped with refugees who have been unable to flee northwards because of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Goksel said the wounded officer was evacuated by helicopter to UNIFIL'S hospital at the force's headquarters in Nakoura, inside the security zone.

The IDF Spokesman said that Hizbullah activities had been identified near a UN position in Lebanon. He said that as a result, UNIFIL had been requested to prevent such incidents. The announcement did not give the location where Hizbullah gunmen had been spotted or other details.

"Before reacting officially, we are awaiting more precise information from the IDF regarding these claims, which are not new to us," said Goksel.

A UNIFIL officer, however, noted that with so many raids by

the IAF in south Lebanon and heavy shelling by artillery the force's troops were themselves having to go into bomb shelters.

The officer said a Katyusha rocket had hit the force's headquarters on Sunday and badly damaged a workshop. Two more rockets fell close to the UN complex yesterday.

"More than 90 Katyushas were fired on Sunday and a further 50 so far today, and around 2,000 rounds of artillery today by the IDF," said the officer. "There have also been around 30 raids by Israeli aircraft in various parts of south Lebanon up to early evening. There were 54 incidents of firing close to UN positions, including bombs, on Sunday and about 20 such incidents so far today.

"With all this going on, we have enough on our hands trying to keep our own troops alive."

In addition, more than 9,000 refugees have taken shelter inside or on the perimeter of UN positions. These include several hundreds of people who have found refuge at the UN's offices and bases in Tyre.



Hizbullah members with explosives strapped to their chests, calling themselves the 'Brigade of Martyrdom-Lovers,' yesterday chant an oath of allegiance and vow to kill themselves to take vengeance on Israel and the United States. The IDF said troops are on alert for suicide attacks. (AP)

## Soldiers in Lebanon balance pride and angst

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

"FROM where I'm standing," said Col. Zion, perched atop a rampart in an IDF position in south Lebanon, "we can see where the Hizbullah terrorists are moving."

The brigade commander pointed to a lazy ridge some 2,500 meters to the northwest and said a squad of gunmen carrying a Sagger missile had been spotted. Flanked by his radiomen, the colonel ordered a Merkava tank onto its firing ramp.

"Describe the target to me," he said in his clipped army tone. "Roger. Fire."

The tank let off four rounds, which seconds later slammed into the far hillside and exploded.

"Direct hit," said the colonel as he climbed back down. "They are trying their best to shell Kiryat Shmona and Nahariya, and we are doing our best to stop them."

The Merkava retreated to cover behind a screen of gray smoke. Overhead, a pair of Apache attack helicopters paced across the sky in search of Hizbullah targets.

Artillery from surrounding positions pounded away at houses and other Hizbullah targets north of the

security zone. The dull thud of the his echoed back across the rugged hills. Then a large explosion sounds from the direction of the gate, where another Merkava was stationed. Incoming or outgoing?

An enlisted man named Lior smiled, cocked his head to the side and said: "Naw, that was one of ours. You should have been here this morning. We were hit by mortars and even a Katyusha."

That round missed the position, hitting the ruins of a 2,300-year-old Hellenistic temple just beside the ramparts instead, knocking over a column which had stood for over two millennia.

The soldiers on position Karkapp live in a constant state of alert. Since it overlooks the villages of Yatar, Kafra, and Majdel Zum - noted Hizbullah bases and Katyusha launching sites - the position has been a favorite Hizbullah target. Over the past nine months three soldiers have died there - the latest last Wednesday, when a Hizbullah

mortar round burst on the trenches instantly killing St-Sgt. Uri Friedman, 20, from Ramat Hasharon.

Since Operation Grapes of Wrath began, the inhabitants of these villages have fled northward and the IDF says anyone seen moving is considered Hizbullah and a target. "Whoever moves there is for us the enemy," said Col. Zion, the brigade commander.

Cpl. Golan, the platoon sniper, said he is proud to be serving in a combat unit and feels like he is defending the state.

"I'm not looking for a medal. My motto is: Wherever you can contribute you should. I'm combat fit so I am here," he said.

The Nahal soldier, most aged about 19, have only been here for about six weeks - enough time in this front line position to turn them into combat veterans.

"I was here last week when Uri was killed. This is fearsome stuff. Suddenly people are running around with blood on their faces

and you are not used to it. You see it in the movies and on TV, but now it was for real. It makes us more paranoid and we start thinking about life," said Cpl. Iron.

The battalion commander, 32-year-old Lt.-Col. Dror, said he is glad the army had decided to act after months of restraint. The father of two from Reut said his troops have carried out ambushes and reconnaissance patrols, and is now allowed to open fire on Hizbullah terrorists without the embarrassment of getting higher approval. "There is relief. We have trained for this for a long time," Dror said.

Position commander Lt. Ran, 22, a fifth-generation sabra from Kiryat Tavor, is both master and protector of his soldiers. "I'm always on them to keep their flak vests on, to wear their helmets," Ran said. "I've got six months left before I go back to my moshav farm. But I don't have time to count the days till then. I just want to get to tomorrow with all my men in one piece."

## Netanyahu: Political action needed against Syria

OPERATION Grapes of Wrath must not end the way Operation Accountability ended - with an agreement that allows Hizbullah to attack the IDF and Israeli settlements, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu said during a visit to the North yesterday.

He said he hopes the operation will be one that "will destroy Hizbullah's infrastructure in south Lebanon so that it will not be able to attack our settlements, as well as a political operation against Syria that will prevent it from allowing Hizbullah to rebuild its base."

The country still has not taken political and economic action against Syria to force it to withdraw its support from Hizbullah, Netanyahu said. He suggested that Israel ask the US to pressure Syria to stop supporting Hizbullah.

His briefing from OC Northern

Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine yesterday on the situation in south Lebanon convinced him that the IDF is capable of undermining Hizbullah, Netanyahu said, adding that he hopes the government is equally capable.

He said he is not worried about the prestige the operation would bring to Prime Minister Shimon Peres and that if the government conducts the operation "correctly" it will receive the Likud's support throughout.

Asked about Likud colleague Ariel Sharon's and Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan's calls for widening the security zone, Netanyahu replied, "I think these decisions are tactical decisions which must be left to the IDF commanders. I think what is necessary is an understanding that no government, past or present, and certainly not our future government, is interested in occupying one

square meter of Lebanon. We are there only for security reasons."

Yisrael Ba'aliya leader Natan Sharansky also visited the North yesterday, meeting with 400 immigrants living in Kiryat Shmona as well as with Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran and Regional Council Head Aharon Valency.

Kiryat Shmona councilman Michael Nudelman, second on the Yisrael Ba'aliya list, accompanied him.

"We support the government's use of force finally," he said in a statement. "But it is the government's job to guarantee that agreements are adhered to constantly. Enforcing adherence cannot be just a pre-election exercise. Our party insists and demands that Israel's partners to negotiations fulfill their commitments." (Iim)

## Those fleeing the North find temporary homes

MORAN Albo, 15, arrived in the Tel Aviv area with 74 children, ages 10-15, in two buses from Nahariya yesterday morning. She came not because she was afraid, but "because I'm a youth counselor, so they suggested I come with the kids," she said from the Ramat Aviv Gimmel home of Liora Cohen. The other children were staying in other homes in the

area.

The Cohens are one of the more than 1,000 Tel Aviv families who responded to a request by the Prime Minister's Office to offer shelter to families from the North, and similar offers have been flooding in from all over the country. Spokesmen for the Ramat Gan

and Rishon LeZion municipalities, for instance, said that more than 500 families had volunteered, "but so far there have been no takers."

Both cities are sheltering children in hotels or schools. Rishon was expecting 70 children from Kiryat Shmona yesterday, and Ramat Gan is putting up 35 children from Kibbutz Sassa at a local hotel. Tel Aviv is looking after more than 100 Beduin children from Aramsha village in the North.

The Sharon Hotel in Herzliya is hosting six families, 30 people, 17 of whom are children, from Kiryat Shmona, "and today we've taken them to the Safari animal and Tzapari bird park," said general manager Zvika Spies.

The Eilat Hotel Association is putting up 70 families from Kiryat Shmona in seven hotels "with more expected," said EHA general manager Moti Inbar.

"Four salvos of Katyushas landed right by our house," said Elijah Wahaba, 74, of Kiryat Shmona, who left the beleaguered city at 2 a.m. Monday morning in order to catch the 5 a.m. bus to Tel Aviv.

He arrived in Kiryat Shmona from Egypt in 1954, and this is the first time he has left the city because of rocket attacks, "and I wouldn't have left now except that my wife isn't well. I don't know how long we'll stay. I don't know how to thank the people here. I have no words." The phone number to call to host children is 177-022-5949.

The UN Security Council, convening early yesterday to discuss the Israeli closure of the territories, immediately became entangled with the hostilities in Lebanon.

A discussion of the closure had been scheduled for the morning, while the meeting on Lebanon was not expected to begin until last night. In the words of one Israeli pundit yesterday, "This morning we'll be condemned about collective punishment and then tonight we'll be condemned for our acts of aggression."

However, the tone was set by the morning's first speaker, Dr. Nasser Khdwa, the Palestinian observer at the United Nations, who said, "We condemn the Israeli attacks on Lebanese villages and cities. We reiterate our solidarity with the Lebanese people in their steadfastness and determination to bring the occupation to an end."

Egypt called on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and then assailed the closure of the territories. Saying there have been both Palestinian and Israeli extremists, Ambassador Nabil Araby said terror cannot be exploited to impose collective punishment.

The Egyptian envoy then challenged the council to take some action, saying its silence would weaken its ability in the future to deal with acts of aggression.

Israeli Ambassador Gad Ya'acobi castigated the Palestinians for snarling the issue

## AACI offers to host Anglos

THE Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel is offering to find housing for any Anglo-Saxon in the North who wants to flee the Katyushas. AACI is calling on all of its members who want to help to contact its offices.

David London, head of the AACI's northern region, said more than 20 families have already offered short-term housing to those fleeing the Katyushas.

The AACI office in the North can be reached at (04) 8384319. Arie O'Sullivan

## Lebanon overshadows closure at Security Council debate

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

of Lebanon with the closure, which he insisted is not collective punishment, but a security measure.

For its part, the US regretted that there was a meeting on the closure at all. "Such a discussion cannot help the peace process," said Madeleine Albright, the American envoy. "It can only polarize that already difficult situation and distract us from the focus of our real challenges: to combat terror, guarantee security, ease the economic dislocation of the Palestinians."

The Security Council was not expected to issue a resolution or a presidential statement on the closure, a prospect to which Khdwa seemed reconciled. The Beirut government is seeking an immediate cease-fire and Israeli withdrawal.

"What I am asking from the

council is to stop immediately the Israeli aggression against Lebanon," Ambassador Samir Moubarak told reporters late yesterday before addressing the council.

He said he also would ask the council to condemn the Israeli action and to arrange a humanitarian relief program for Lebanon.

A resolution on Lebanon appeared unlikely, particularly

because of American support for Israel. However, a statement by the president of the council was possible.

"Hopefully the council will not take action," Ya'acobi told reporters early yesterday. "This is self-defense." Jerusalem hopes any statement would be balanced by blaming Hizbullah for the attacks and holding Lebanon's government responsible for controlling its territory, sources said.

### Kibbutz Yizreel mourns the passing of its friend

#### ERIC LUCAS

and offers deepest condolences to the family

### We mourn the passing of our dear friend

#### ROBERT CARR

and offer our deepest condolences to the members of his family.

His Chevra from Young Judaea, Camp Hatzofeh and Hanoar Hazioni

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#### JUDITH (DITER) AKSELRAD

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### OCCUPATION: NAZI-HUNTER

The Continuing Search for Perpetrators of the Holocaust

The renewed interest in the efforts to prosecute the perpetrators of the Holocaust was sparked by revelations that Allied countries such as USA, UK, Canada and Australia had afforded a postwar haven to thousands of Nazi collaborators. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Israel Office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and coordinator of the Center's research on Nazi war criminals, discusses in his book how Nazi-hunting was revived in the seventies, how it was carried out in the eighties and whether it can continue in the nineties.

Foreword by Rabbi Marvin Hier. Published by KTAV. Hardcover, 374 pp.

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# New York survivors commemorate Holocaust

**SURVIVORS** gathered here Sunday to commemorate the Holocaust in a two-hour ceremony which featured liturgical music, speeches, a communal recitation of Kaddish, and three sets of candle-lightings.

The event was not a community-wide commemoration. Unlike virtually every other major American Jewish community, New York's commemoration is organized exclusively by the survivors. This has led to some awkward situations in which communal leaders have privately grumbled about the program, but refuse to air their grievances publicly for fear of upsetting the survivors.

The effect is that the commemoration, organized by the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization/American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, becomes an event for survivors, not for community remembrance. Some 3,000 people filled

**MARILYN HENRY  
NEW YORK**

Temple Emanu-el, the 150-year-old Reform congregation on Fifth Avenue. Some Orthodox leaders had refused to attend because it was held at a Reform synagogue.

The event was somber and celebrity-free, unlike last year when President Bill Clinton, then foreign minister Shimon Peres, and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau participated.

One million people will be commemorating the Shoah this week in the US, said Benjamin Meed, the organization's president. Yet that also was a sobering bit of information, because that number represents only 20 percent of the American Jewish community and does not take into account what had been expected to be the major impact of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The recent terror attacks in

Israel and the current hostilities in Lebanon were prominent in the speeches of the dignitaries.

Representative Tom Lantos of California, a survivor from Hungary, said he rejoiced that there is a State of Israel, "with a might unmatched in the region, that will see to it that peace returns to Kiryat Shmona."

"We must support Israel as it moves to smash the terrorists from its midst," said New York Governor George Pataki.

Noting that it has been 50 years since the Nuremberg trials, Pataki said that the world must condemn terrorists, who are "guilty of crimes against humanity."

"We will have the ultimate Jewish revenge," said Avraham Burg, head of the Jewish Agency, "the revenge of peace."

Meed told Burg to take a message back to Israel. "We are with you," Meed said. "We will remain forever with you."

# Bond forged between two families helped their survival

**BATSHEVA TSUR**

A MOSLEM family's unique act of humanity and bravery during the Holocaust has developed into a saga which has spanned more than half a century.

When Zaynaba Hardaga of Sarajevo forged an unflinching bond with the Jewish people by opening her door to three families in danger of being annihilated by the Nazis, she could not have imagined the impact it would have on her children.

Today her daughter, Sarah (born Aida) Pacanac, is an archivist at Yad Vashem and an Orthodox Jew.

"I am just another link in the chain my mother started 50 years ago," Pacanac said yesterday.

In 1941, the Hardagas agreed to hide their neighbors, the Kabilios — as well as two other Jewish families — in their home, even though Nazi headquarters were across the street. Tova Kabilio-Grinberg, who was three at the time, never forgot — and in 1985 she arranged to have the family recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Gentiles. Members of the family visited Israel at that time and planted a tree by the Avenue of the Righteous.

Then, in the summer of 1992, when the fighting in Sarajevo was at a peak, Kabilio-Grinberg managed to contact her former saviors, although most of the telephone lines in the besieged city were down. The Hardagas told her that the conditions in Sarajevo were appalling.

Kabilio-Grinberg immediately invited members of the family to stay with her in Jerusalem. One of Hardaga's daughters and her children managed to board the last plane out. The story, first published in *The Jerusalem Post*, made headlines around the world.

But Hardaga, an amputee who was then 73, remained in Sarajevo, where her condition deteriorated from lack of food and medication. In November 1993,



Sarah Pacanac, a refugee from Sarajevo who converted to Judaism after moving here, hugs her daughter Esther in front of a memorial at Yad Vashem, where she works. (Isaac Harari)

Later, at a Jerusalem ceremony where prime minister Yitzhak Rabin awarded the family Israeli citizenship, the feeling was enhanced.

"You are our sister," Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban told the Righteous Gentile and she responded: "My family will repay your kindness."

Hardaga, a devout Moslem, did not stand in her daughter's way. "Mother (who died nine months after her arrival in Israel) was a superb psychologist and educator," Pacanac said. "She believed in freedom of choice. When we started to study Judaism, she did not intervene... I was always interested in Judaism and we had many Jewish friends. I liked the way the Jews stuck together — both in sorrow and in joy. It felt right to me to be Jewish, like a body with two hands."

A year ago, before Pessah, the Pacanacs were formally converted. In May, Sarah's husband, now known as Moshe, had a brit mila. The following month, her daughter Esther celebrated her bat mitzva. Then, in September, Sarah and Moshe were remarried in a Jewish ceremony. Moshe, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has also been given part-time work at Yad Vashem's computer department. Their story is to appear in the *Yad Vashem* magazine later this month.

The family lives in Jerusalem's Kiryat Yovel quarter — about equidistant from the Grinbergs and from their new friends in Bayit Vegan with whom they study and spend Shabbat. Esther has transferred to a religious school, where she excels in Torah studies.

Sarah says she is grateful for getting work at Yad Vashem, where she can "make a contribution" to the people who took her family in.

After experiencing the hell in Sarajevo and being a refugee, she says, "I learned never to take anything for granted."

## 250,000 survivors live here

THERE are some 250,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel, about 164,000 of them 65 or older. This was found by a study conducted by the Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Elderly in Israel (ESHEL) and the Joint-Israel.

Of the elderly survivors, 30 percent are 65-69; 46% are 70-79; and 24% are 80 or older.

About 50,000 survivors have arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989.

## Settlers' council censures members who talked with PA

**HERB KENON**

THE Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza last night censured the three members of its board who met in secret with Palestinian Authority representatives over the last two years, but stopped short of kicking them off the council.

Council spokesman Ahron Domb said after a three-hour meeting that the council "unequivocally rejects the meetings of a few colleagues with the representatives of the Palestinian Authority."

The members who met with the Palestinians were its chairman, Yisrael Harel, *Nekuda* editor Uri Elitzur, and Rabbi Eliezer Waldman.

Participants said that yesterday's meeting dealt with the issues involved in the controversial discussions with the Palestinians, but not the three participants. This is to be dealt with later.

Even so, council sources said Harel, Elitzur, and Waldman all spoke at the closed meeting and explained themselves.

Explanations ranged from trying to pave the way for future meetings between Binayamin Netanyahu and Palestinian representatives, to not realizing the depth of the opposition to the move, to not understanding that some of the Palestinian partners in the discussion were ranking members of the PA.

Yehuda Liberman, head of the Karnaï Shomron Regional Council, said although calls to remove the three were heard immediately following revelations of the meetings, any changes at the council would likely wait until after the Knesset elections.

The meetings with the Palestinians has given momentum

to calls to change the structure of the council, now run by a directorate that includes the heads of the local and regional councils in the territories, and a small number of public figures elected in the 1980s.

One restructuring plan is to hold elections for the slots held by the public figures and to allow Israelis inside the Green Line who identify with the settlement movement, and who register with the council, to vote as well as settlers. Another suggestion, first raised by Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kasriel three months ago, is to have the council run solely by the heads of the local and regional councils in the territories.

Waldman, Harel, and Elitzur, all veterans of the early Gush Emunim campaigns, are all public figures on the council.

A small group of protesters calling for the removal of the three protested in front of the Menorah Hotel in Jerusalem during yesterday's meeting there.

"What they did was irresponsible," said one protester, Hebron activist Moshe Ben-Zimra. "It is immoral for them to speak to murderers, and it is inconceivable that they would do this at a time when the Right is saying it is immoral to talk to murderers."

Among the Palestinians involved in the talks (organized by Joseph Alpher, director of the Israel/Middle East Office of the American Jewish Committee) were Mahmud Dahlan, head of the Preventive Security Services in Gaza, Sufian Abu Zaydeh, head of the PA's Israel desk, Hassam Asfour, a high-ranking negotiator in the peace talks, Khalil Shkaki, head of a Nablus think tank, and Yazid Sayig, a Cambridge professor.

## Bereaved fail in Munich Olympic massacre damages bid

MUNICH (Reuter) — Five relatives of Israeli athletes killed by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympics failed in court yesterday to secure damages from German authorities, whom they accuse of bungling a rescue bid.

The court declared the suits to have been withdrawn after the relatives failed to post bonds to ensure that their legal costs would be covered.

The same court in October threw out a damages claim by 22 other relatives of the 11 athletes killed by the Black September group, ruling that the cases were already covered by a 1973 compensation agreement.

Those cases are now going to appeal. Two remaining cases will be heard on May 6.

The suits, with claims totaling 40 million marks (\$27m.), have all been directed against the German national government, the State of Bavaria, and Munich city authorities.

The Black September gunmen killed two athletes and took nine others hostage as they broke into Israeli team quarters at the Olympics in a spectacular attack intended to focus attention on their campaign against Israel.

Police mounted a rescue attempt at Fuerstenfeldbruck Airport outside Munich after the gunmen and hostages were taken there by helicopter, but all nine captives died in the shootout, along with five Palestinians and a policeman.

Ruling on the first 22 cases, the court said a statute of limitations had passed in 1975, rejecting relatives' arguments that it was not until 1992 they finally saw reports of the police rescue operation which allegedly showed it was culpably bungled.

Legal technicalities prevented them also reaching a verdict on the other seven suits in October.

## Holocaust memorial in Prague synagogue

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — A unique memorial listing all the available names of Czech Jews killed by Nazis in World War II was unveiled yesterday in Prague's 15th century Pinkas synagogue.

Three teams of artists and calligraphers needed almost four years to restore some 80,000 names listed in red oil paint inside the synagogue's light yellow walls. Dates of birth are colored in black.

(Continued from Page 1)

or near villages — no longer exists. We are freer to fire at what we believe are terrorists or what we think is about to become a launch of a Katyusha," Zucker said.

But soldiers at one position in the south Lebanon said that they could see that a small number of people, particularly the elderly, have not fled and are hiding in their homes.

"I can tell you that we tried not to hit them," said one soldier. Hizbullah has vowed to turn northern Israel into a "fiery hell" and fired fresh barrages of Katyushas.

(Continued from Page 1)

booster his position before next month's election. He said the Lebanese government is not in a position to disarm Hizbullah as long as Israel stays in the country.

"[The Israelis] are occupying part of our country. What they want us to do is make the occupation easy. We cannot do this," he said.

In a meeting with ambassadors based in Israel, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir said he sees the next few days as critical in deciding whether a diplo-

## 6,000 youths to march in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — About 6,000 Jewish young people from around the world will march from the Auschwitz death camp today to gas chambers where the Nazis murdered 1.5 million Jews. The participants — students from Israel, the US and 36 other countries — visited the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial last night.



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## HIZBULLAH

shas. Four children were lightly injured in Western Galilee.

Another rocket slammed to the ground near a synagogue. The grassy yard absorbed most of the blast and very minor damage was caused.

By last night, Hizbullah had succeeded in firing some 50 Katyushas into Israel. But they came one or two at a time, signifying the difficulty Hizbullah is having larger and more accurate barrages.

(Continued from Page 1)

matic settlement could be worked out based on strengthening the US-brokered understandings reached in the aftermath of Operation Accountability, according to a statement issued by his office.

Those understandings on based upon the principle of essentially containing fighting to the security zone, and keeping Lebanese civilians north of the area and Israeli citizens south of the area out of harm's way.

Interviewed on Channel 2, Peres said Israel would have to remain in the security zone for the time being. He said the fate of

## DIPLOMATIC

the zone would be decided as part of negotiations with Syria.

Israel found support for its position from visiting British Defense Secretary Michael Portillo. While touring the North, Portillo said, "We understand that Israel has worked tirelessly to achieve peace with her neighbors and with the Palestinians, that it is the right of every country to have security and defend herself."

Portillo blamed Hizbullah for the current escalation of violence. "The civilians have been put in danger by Hizbullah, by terrorists who have been operating within civilian areas, firing

their rockets from the very center of villages.

"I don't believe that Israel wishes to kill any civilians and for that reason, civilians have been withdrawing from their own security. But of course when terrorists operate in this way, civilian lives are put in danger, which is one of the reasons that we condemn Hizbullah terrorism unreservedly."

At the request of French President Jacques Chirac, who recently visited Lebanon and favors an enhanced role for France in the region, Foreign Minister Herve de Charette arrived in Jerusalem and held talks with Peres and Foreign Minister Ehud Barak.

## HOLOCAUST

(Continued from Page 1)

"We send words of encouragement from this ceremony to the people of the North, to the citizens of Kiryat Shmona, to our soldiers, and wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded," she declared. "The land is not yet quiet, but there is much room for hope."

Following "The Partisans' Song," the chief IDF chaplain read a memorial prayer. Then the audience rose silently to its feet as a survivor said Kaddish, and the

IDF cantor recited "El Ma'ale Rahamim."

Today, the memorial siren will sound at 10 a.m. Immediately afterward will be a wreath-laying ceremony at Yad Vashem's Warsaw Ghetto Memorial Plaza. Weizman, Peres, Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, public figures, organization representatives, survivors, and pupils and delegations from around the country will participate in the ceremony.

The main memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance will take place at 1 p.m.

## HAWATMEH

(Continued from Page 1)

attend. But doubts about permits for others threatened to reduce participation below the required two-thirds, as some participants threatened to stay away in solidarity with those barred by Israel.

The closure, and possibly the operation in Lebanon, could also influence the PNC vote.

increased the number of Palestinian workers allowed into Israel from 3,000 to 10,000. The minimum worker's age was lowered from 45 to 40.

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# Oldest survivor to visit Titanic site

BOSTON (AP) - The oldest survivor of the sinking of the Titanic wants to visit the site this summer, and throw a rose into the ocean where her father went down with the ship 84 years ago.

"It could be a sort of remembrance for my mother," said Dorothy Kendall, daughter of Edith Haisman, 99, who was a passenger on the ocean liner that sank on its maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg.

Kendall said she and her mother, who lives in Southampton, England, plan to be on the cruise ship Royal Majesty, which will leave Boston on August 25 to take passengers to the site of the sinking about 400 miles off Newfoundland.

Passengers will be able to watch recovery of artifacts and a small section of the Titanic on closed circuit television.

The ship, two miles below the surface, was located in 1985 by oceanographer Robert Ballard.

Kendall said her mother, who will need a nurse for the trip, was not quite 16 when the boat, headed from England to New York, sank on April 15, 1912.

Haisman is alert and remembers the sinking, her daughter said.

Kendall said Haisman's father put her and her mother in a lifeboat.

"He (Edith's father) was talking to the Rev. Carter and smoking a cigar," Kendall said. "That was the last time she saw her father. He said, 'I'll see you in New York.'"

Kendall said her mother remembers a man jumping into the lifeboat after it was launched and a ship's officer yelling at him. "I've got a good mind to shoot you."

"She saw the ship go down from half a mile away," Kendall said.

"The lights were on, and the band was playing."

"The next morning she saw bodies, a lot of bodies in the water, some in their pajamas, some in vests, some only in underpants."

"She had nightmares for years, but she's got over it," Kendall said.

She said her mother married in South Africa and had 10 children.

# Pavarotti's new love is bored by opera

MILAN (AP) - The other woman in Luciano Pavarotti's life says she prefers rock music to opera.

"At the beginning we had a lot of problems because I was bored to death by listening to opera," Nicoletta Mantovani told the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* in an interview yesterday.

Ms. Mantovani, Pavarotti's 26-year-old secretary, also said she feels much better since her relationship with the tenor has come out in the open.

"We love each other ... the last year was hell ... because I don't like to tell lies," she was quoted as saying. "Since the truth has been revealed I'm happy."

Last month, Pavarotti and his manager-wife Adua agreed to a separation after 35 years of marriage. They have three daughters.

They acted after an Italian gossip magazine published photos of the tenor and his secretary walking arm-in-arm and kissing on a Caribbean beach.



Szymon Serafinowicz, 85, leaves Dorking Magistrates' Court yesterday after being committed for trial for murdering three Jews during World War II. Britain's War Crimes Act was invoked for the first time yesterday. See adjacent story. (Reuter)

# Clinton on Asian heal-and-build trip

PRESIDENT Clinton headed into Asia yesterday on a mission to heal and advance relations between the United States and its main military allies in the region, South Korea and Japan.

In South Korea, his first stop today, Clinton will try to bring "ultimate reconciliation" to the Cold War's last frontier.

In Japan, he holds from today through Thursday what his Defense Secretary William Perry calls the "most significant summit since the end of the Cold War" as the United States seeks to defuse anti-US feelings without compromising Asia's security needs.

The last leg of the president's weeklong, around-the-world trip takes him to Moscow for a nuclear safety and security summit featuring Boris Yeltsin, as well as leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan and Ukraine.

Watching the trip closely is China, which says it hopes Clinton's trip into its backyard will not bring "new problems".

Returning to an area he last visited three years ago, Clinton's eyes this time are fixed more on military matters than booming US trade with Asia.

"It (Clinton's trip) sends a message to the entire region of our continued interest and commitment," a White House official said before Clinton left.

The president's first task is to reassure South Koreans that the United States still stands firmly behind them and will not make a unilateral peace with communist North Korea.

But Clinton told reporters accompanying him that he wanted also to bring "ultimate reconciliation" to the two Koreas.

# Oklahoma bomb anniversary revives painful memories

OKLAHOMA CITY (Reuter) - Devastated by the Oklahoma City bomb attack, wounded survivors and relatives of the dead struggle to cope with a year of agony before the eyes of the nation.

As they prepare for the first anniversary of the blast that killed 168 people, many say they are assaulted more and more by the brutal details of last April 19 and the days and weeks that followed.

Some say they fear Friday's memorial services will force them for the first time to confront emotions they have buried until now.

"I've tried to be overzealous, to just be thankful to be here. Now, all of a sudden, some things just hit me," said Arlene Blanchard, 29, an Army recruiting officer who was knocked unconscious by the blast that killed several friends.

"This (the anniversary) is going to be a blow-my-mind day," said Blanchard, who has burn scars on her back but dismisses them as "vanity wounds" that she says do not compare to the emotional scars. One year after the bombing, she has left the army and says she is prone to mood swings. She laughs louder and cries for no apparent reason.

Painfully aware of life's fragility, some survivors and rescue workers who toiled for days to remove bodies from the ravaged Alfred P. Murrah building say they now find themselves constantly hugging their children, spouses and friends.

Psychologists say others have coped less well, turning to alcohol, suffering acute depression or feeling unable to communicate properly with anyone who was

to a near-crawl near Haneda airport, where Clinton is to arrive this afternoon.

With more than 22,000 officers mobilized, it was the biggest police alert in Japan since the deployment of 25,000 police to guard a summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum last November in Osaka.

Clinton could not attend that meeting because of a budget standoff with Congress, so his state visit to Tokyo was delayed until now. Because of the postponement, he now has a new counterpart - Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who took office in January.

The opening of the trial of doomstayer cult leader Shoko Asahara was at one point set for this week, when it would have coincided with Clinton's stay. It was hastily rescheduled for next week.

Even so, authorities were jittery about Aum Shinri Kyo cult. Most of its leaders are in jail, but a handful remain at large.

Police were also preparing to watch a rally being staged in Tokyo by citizens' groups supporting an Okinawan landowner demanding the return of his land from the US military.

Okinawa had erupted in anger last September with the rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl, in which three US servicemen were convicted. The attack galvanized longstanding opposition to the US military presence.

However, some of Okinawa's anger was alleviated with word from Japanese officials and Defense Secretary William Perry that the US military would give back to Okinawa about 20 percent of the island property it uses for training.

The land return is the biggest since the United States relinquished control of the island in 1972.

Police said yesterday a small unexploded firebomb had been found on a road near the Parliament building. Police said the gasoline-filled bottle could do little damage if went off and was probably left by someone trying cause a "nuisance."

At police checkpoints, officers pulled over cars to check trunks and stopped pedestrians for spot checks of briefcases. Even baby carriages were being inspected.

The heavy security measures slowed traffic

News agencies

TOKYO

Sirens wailed across South Korea and air force fighters posing as communist invaders streaked over cities in case Pyongyang tried to disrupt meetings.

Tension on the Korean Peninsula has risen sharply since Pyongyang announced it was abandoning its obligations under the armistice agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, then followed with three troop incursions into Panmunjom.

North Korea's Korean Central News Agency, which has said the United States is trying to rule Asia, described the exercise as part of Seoul's "war fever".

In Tokyo tens of thousands of police took to the streets yesterday for a massive security sweep on the eve of the state visit.

Armored police vans cruised central Tokyo, helicopters patrolled key areas, and officers combed train and subway stations.

Security was particularly tight at sites where Clinton's itinerary will take him, including areas close to Imperial Palace and the government guesthouse, both in the center of town.

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Welch stopped and said simply: "She was the best friend I ever had in my life. We were extremely close."

The memories of lives lost and the bomb itself have intensified in recent days but some believe the anniversary - and going through the pain attached to it - is a key part of the healing process.

"It's a hurdle we have to get over," said Paul Heath, a survivor of the blast and a psychologist with the Veterans' Administration. "Once we get by the anniversary, we will see an upswing in people's lives."

The anniversary memorials will hardly be private. Visiting government dignitaries, a new security operation and an army of reporters will once again put the mourners on centre stage. Some say their wishes are being ignored.

# Stage set for first British war crimes trial

DORKING (Reuter) - An elderly refugee from the former Soviet Union will face Britain's first war crimes trial after magistrates ruled yesterday he should answer charges that he murdered three Jews during World War II.

Magistrate Peter Badge said 85-year-old Szymon Serafinowicz, a retired carpenter, must face three charges of killing unnamed Jews in the former Soviet republic of Belarus between 1941 and 1942, when the region was under German occupation.

Serafinowicz, frail and bent, appeared bewildered by the proceedings and had to turn his head to hear the ruling.

The charge sheet accuses him of murdering unnamed Jews between November 1941 and March 1942 in villages of Mir, Krynczine and Dolmatowiczyszczyna when the region was under German occupation.

Defense lawyer Nicholas Bowers said Serafinowicz continued to maintain his innocence. "He has instructed me to prepare a full and vigorous defense to those charges. He is in fact looking forward to establishing his innocence before a jury."

After the ruling, the court clerk read out the indictment and asked Serafinowicz if he understood what was going on.

Serafinowicz, a small man wearing a cap and an old jacket, said merely, "Yes."

The case is expected to be heard later this year. Britain's Jews re-

ceived the news "with interest" but reaction was generally low-key.

"The British Jewish community has every confidence in the fairness of our criminal justice system and in the ability of our courts to ensure justice," said Neville Ngalter, chairman of the Board of Deputies which represents Jews in Britain.

Like many Byelorussians who opposed Russia's communist rule, Serafinowicz became a volunteer member of the police force set up by the Nazis during their occupation, which began in 1941.

After the war, Serafinowicz came to Britain with his Polish-born wife. He settled in the southern county of Surrey where he made his living as a carpenter until his retirement.

He was charged in June 1995 following an investigation by a special police war crimes unit.

He was the first person to face trial under the 1991 War Crimes Act, which allows British courts to prosecute war criminals even though they were not British citizens when they committed their crimes and their offences did not take place on British soil.

The war crimes unit has investigated around 350 cases since it was set up in 1991, but many of the suspects have died and many more have been told they are no longer under investigation.

Currently, the unit is carrying out inquiries into another 11 war crimes suspects.

# Zhirinovskiy vows not to support Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AP) - Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, an ultranationalist candidate for the Russian presidency, said yesterday that he would not throw his support to President Boris Yeltsin if a run-off ballot is required after June's election.

Zhirinovskiy, one of four officially registered candidates, said he would not consider supporting Yeltsin or Communist candidate Gennady Zyuganov if he is knocked off the ballot in the first round of voting on June 16.

"I'm not tossing my votes to anyone," Zhirinovskiy told the Interfax news agency.

Zhirinovskiy said he was Russia's last hope.

"A choice between Yeltsin and Zyuganov is a catastrophe for Russia," he said. "Only I can maintain

the integrity of the Russian government and drag this country out of crisis."

The Communist leader has been leading in the polls, but recent public opinion surveys show the president is narrowing the gap.

The only other candidate officially registered with the Election Commission so far is former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Yeltsin, meanwhile, was taking his 'campaign' yesterday" to the southern city of Krasnodar near the Black Sea. It was the president's second foray into the Russian heartland in two weeks in his quest for a second term.

Fulfilling at least one campaign promise, Yeltsin signed a decree yesterday on raising pensions to offset losses due to inflation.

to a near-crawl near Haneda airport, where Clinton is to arrive this afternoon.

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# Fabled Trojan gold goes on show despite German objections

MOSCOW (AP) - One of the most famous archaeological finds in history, a stunning collection of gold from ancient Troy, was unveiled yesterday as Russia stepped up its clash with Germany over World War II "trophy" art.

The Trojan Gold, also known as King Priam's Treasure since its discovery over a century ago, had lain in Pushkin Museum vaults for half a century since the victorious Red Army scooped it up in Berlin.

The treasure goes on public display for the first time today to the chagrin of German officials who have been negotiating without success for its return.

Ambassador Ernst York von Studnitz, speaking at the museum's news conference, did his best to couch Germany's displeasure in diplomatic terms. But he stated clearly that the opening should have been done in cooperation with the Germans, who still possess the majority - albeit less glittering part - of the collection.

"I think it is a step towards normalcy that these things, after 50 years in hiding, are surfacing again," he said in an interview afterward. But, he added, "I would not say that this is a matter of rejoicing."

The German Embassy issued a statement lamenting that the problem has arisen "when German-Russian relations are especially close and built on trust and when Germany regards itself as the best partner of Russia."

The stunning haul of gold from the ancient Greek city of Troy was excavated by German amateur archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann in 1873 and sent back to Berlin. He was convinced at the time that it belonged to Priam, king of the city that was featured in Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*.

The treasure from the site, which is now in northwestern Turkey, was later determined to date to about 2500 BC, long before Homer. The Pushkin stunned the world in 1993 by revealing it had the long-lost treasure.

several friends.

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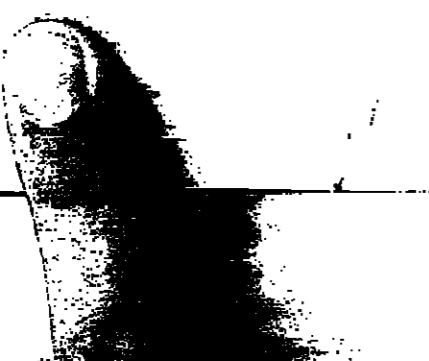
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# German critics slam new US book on Holocaust

BONN (Reuters) - Hitler's Willing Executioners, the highly touted new American book claiming to explain the Nazi slaughter of the Jews, is getting slammed by German critics who reject it as a starkly one-sided study of the Holocaust.

Scathing reviews of the controversial book by Harvard assistant professor Daniel Jonah Goldhagen are now appearing daily in Germany's leading newspapers after the first excerpts were published in German last week.

Two bastions of German journalism, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and Der Spiegel, joined the chorus yesterday to dismiss the book's main argument that pre-Hitler Germany was a society "pregnant with murder" and just waiting to kill all the Jews in its midst.

"We don't dispute the horrors," Der Spiegel's publisher Rudolf Augstein wrote. But to say that all Germans wanted to kill Jews was "at best ignorant, if not in fact malicious."

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung's Josef Joffe asked: "If history poisoned all Germans to be a people of eliminationist antisemitism, why aren't they that way today - and forever?"

Some reviewers hinted the book could harm German-American relations by stirring up a deeply negative view of Germany in the United States.

But all agreed the controversy showed Germany was still haunted by the wartime slaughter of the six million, even if last year's 50th anniversary of the end of World War II suggested the issue was slowly retreating into history.

In 461 angry pages, Goldhagen argues German antisemitism was uniquely bloodthirsty and that millions of ordinary Germans eagerly took part in or supported the Holocaust.

His forceful prose skillfully portrays the virulence of anti-Jewish hatred and the horrors of police-led pogroms and concentration camp death marches in the last days of the war.

Goldhagen, 36, the son of a Holocaust survivor, says his is a pioneering work because it disproves earlier theories about the Holocaust being the

work of sadistic Nazis or frightened Germans simply carrying out orders from above.

The German reviewers, all historians and well-known commentators, say the book refreshes old discredited theories about the Nazi era and has little original research behind it.

Most historians long ago discarded initial post-war views about inherently evil Germans to focus on the tragic effect racist ideology had on a society weakened by hyperinflation, depression, a wartime defeat and political radicalisation.

"Goldhagen's book has little to do with scholarship and proof," wrote Frank Schirrmacher, cultural editor of the Frankfurter Allgemeine.

"Goldhagen is making a myth out of the Holocaust. If you believe the book's thesis, the Germans' path into the 21st century can only be viewed with skepticism and fear."

The wave of unusually prompt and hostile reviews faulted Goldhagen for not comparing Nazi genocide to more recent cases of mass murder in Cambodia, Rwanda or Bosnia and not studying the motivations of the Poles, Ukrainians and others who helped the Nazis slaughter the Jews.

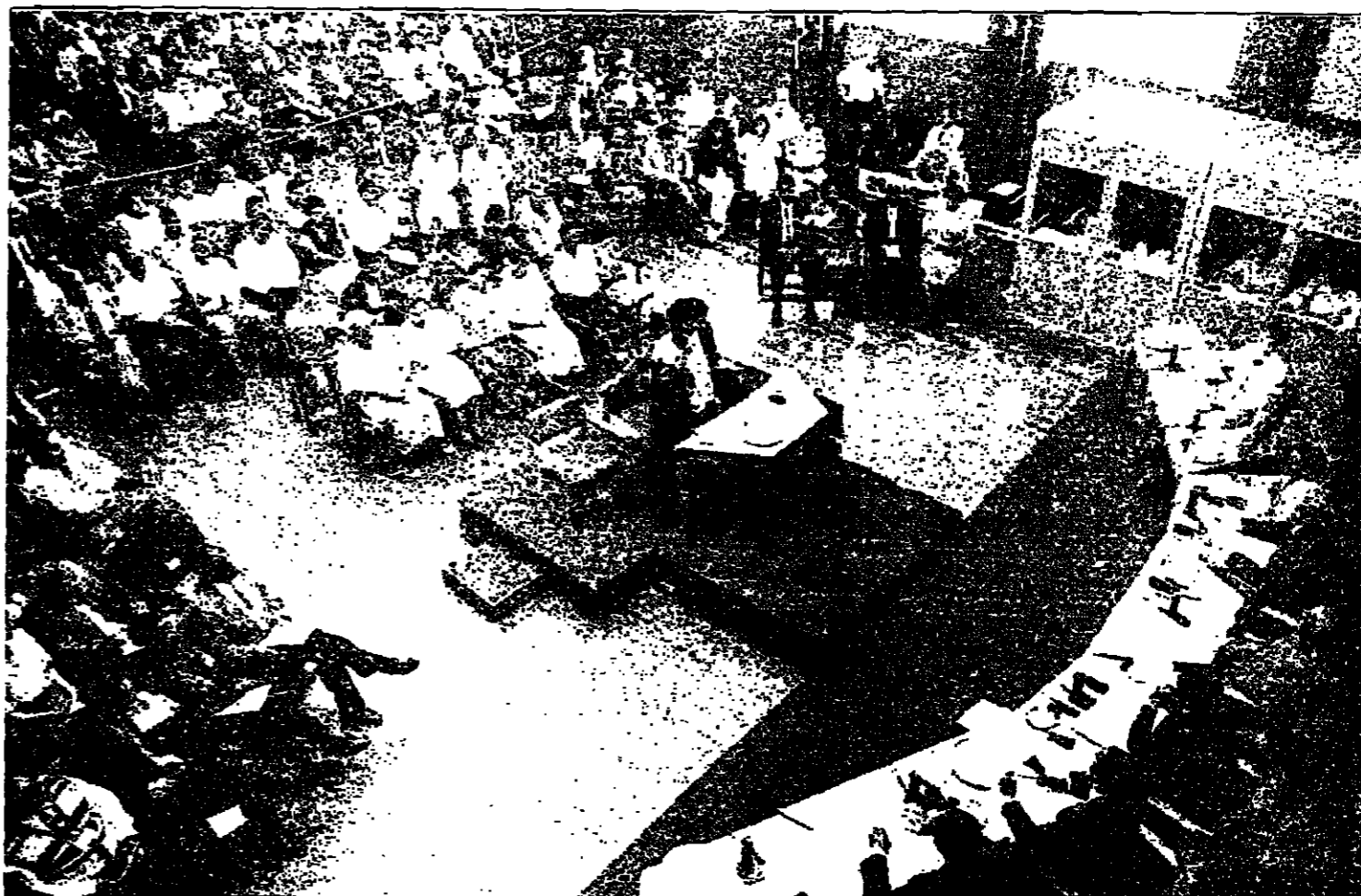
Several reviewers wondered why such a sweeping indictment of the Germans was attracting so much attention now in the United States.

"Maybe this reflects an unease many Americans have about a reunited Germany," Volker Ullrich said in the weekly Die Zeit.

"If you want to get heard in the fierce media market of the nineties, you need gaudy theories," historian Norbert Frei wrote in dismissing the book as a media event.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine's Schirrmacher said the fact that an academic study with such shortcomings could arouse such attention in the United States was itself a cause for concern.

"Goldhagen's book leaves questions unanswered, including one about the intellectual condition of a society that considers such theories to be intellectual progress," he wrote.



Noble Mhapi, the first witness before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is sworn in at its first hearing yesterday. The commission will examine abuses of human rights under Apartheid. Mhapi was testifying on the death of her husband. (Reuters)

# Bomb threat interrupts hearings into Apartheid secrets

DONNA BRYSON

EAST LONDON, South Africa

A bomb threat disrupted historic hearings yesterday aimed at digging up the secrets and healing the wounds of the killings, torture and disappearances of apartheid-era South Africa.

An hour after opening the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with a prayer, Archbishop Desmond Tutu halted testimony and informed a packed auditorium that a bomb threat had been phoned in and police would conduct a security sweep.

"This is one of the kinds of things we will have to deal with," Tutu apologized. "It makes all of us aware that there are some people who will stop at nothing to prevent this commission from doing its work."

Tutu, who clearly regarded the threat as a hoax, noted that police had thoroughly searched the building before the hearings. Most of the crowd eventually shifted to another room for drinks and food as two police dogs sniffed the chamber for bombs.

Police Senior Supt. Rene Hackart told reporters that

threats had been phoned to police and one to a newspaper. The callers appeared to be different people.

Tutu told police he wanted a 24-hour guard on the building to ensure security. "Otherwise, we are going to keep allowing this to happen. I will not allow further interruptions."

The hearings and live television coverage recommenced about 45 minutes after they stopped.

Earlier, the Nobel Peace laureate led the 17-member panel in a prayer seeking "wisdom and guidance as it commences the important work of redressing the many wrongs done."

Seven witnesses were scheduled to testify yesterday relatives of anti-apartheid activists who went missing or were allegedly killed by the security forces.

Noble Mhapi, a former secretary to slain anti-apartheid hero Steve Biko, took the stand first.

She testified about the death of her husband, Mapeta, whom police harassed for his leading role in a black students' organization.

The testimony coincided with the 20th anniversary of Mhapi's death in police custody. An official inquest at the time ruled he had hanged himself with a pair of jeans.

"I have never been happy during the past 20 years," said Mrs. Mhapi. "After I heard about these hearings I wanted to come and give evidence to find out what happened to him, because he never killed himself."

Mrs. Mhapi testified in a calm voice how she herself was tortured, placed in solitary confinement and threatened with death by police. Ironically, the state intelligence agency also tried to recruit her as an informer.

The commission hopes to ease strain on the victims. Before the hearing started, a staff member brought in two large plastic bags

stuffed with tissues to give people who wept.

The governing African National Congress issued a statement urging all South Africans to support the commission. But the ANC's chief black rival, the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party, announced a boycott.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said the commission would not be impartial in uncovering facts of the ANC-Inkatha fighting that has killed thousands over the past decade.

President Nelson Mandela says the hearings are essential to the reconciliation he has preached since white-minority rule ended in 1994. Though politically motivated crime on both sides are to be examined, the focus will be on the old security forces.

"If we are going to have national unity and reconciliation, these proceedings must be successful," Tutu told reporters. "There are many praying for us."

To reward those involved in rights abuses who make full disclosures, the commission can recommend amnesty. (AP)

# Indonesian army officer kills 15 in shooting spree

JAKARTA (Reuters) - An Indonesian army officer ran amok at a remote airport in Irian Jaya yesterday and shot dead 15 people, including at least 10 soldiers and a New Zealander.

Twelve people were reported in hospital with gunshot wounds following the dawn shooting spree at Timika airport.

Local sources said the attack occurred after an aircraft carrying the bodies of two soldiers believed hacked to death by jungle tribesmen at the weekend massacres, as saying the two soldiers had been killed by separatist rebels.

Soeyono, speaking on state-run TVRI television, said the death toll from the Timika shooting rose to 15 during the day.

He said the attacking officer was a second lieutenant but gave no further details.

Antara named the foreigner as Michael Findlay and added the dead included a lieutenant-colonel, a major and a captain.

Sources close to the army said they understood some special forces officers were among the

dead. This could not be confirmed.

A military spokesman, Colonel Sutan Iskandar, said earlier, when the toll was 14, that the dead included 10 soldiers.

Iskandar, said four civilians, including a New Zealander with Indonesia's Airfast airline, were among the dead.

The identity of the 15th person to die was not clear.

Tempagapura hospital, where the injured were being treated, said earlier that up to three survivors had been in critical condition.

The sold in isolation and under guard at the hospital for a leg wound, was a member of the special forces.

by Antara, said the officer "ran amok at Timika airport".

Earlier, he described the officer as suffering from depression or acute stress.

Timika is a main gateway for Tembapura, a town in town run by PT Freeport Indonesia, 82 percent owned by Freepor-

McMoran Copper and Gold Inc of the United States.

Residents said Timika and the surrounding area, overlooked by jagged peaks and surrounded by jungle, was tense after the shooting. The airport was operating normally.

Jakarta-based diplomats said there was no apparent link between yesterday's shootings and rioting by local tribespeople last month in Timika, a mining town of about 50,000 people.

General Soeyono said the military had sent investigators to Timika, about 4,000 km east of Jakarta, following yesterday's shootings.

Business sources said earlier they believed the lieutenant had been assigned to escort the bodies of the two soldiers killed at the weekend at Mapunduma, a remote village.

One Timika resident said: "A soldier at the airport got mad after learning that one of the two dead soldiers had been his friend. He then fired his gun into the people standing there."

# Peacekeepers deploy in Liberia

MONROVIA (Reuters) - West African peacekeepers patrolled the wreckage-strewn streets of Liberia's capital yesterday but made no attempt to halt the looting.

Men carrying boxes of goods came and went from a thieves' market which has sprung up near the mosque. One militia checkpoint was adorned with a garden statue of a Greek goddess.

Gunshots rang out around town, and a reporter inside the Barclay Training Center barracks said mortar fire had resumed towards midday after a lull overnight and during the morning.

He said one person had been killed and 20 wounded when a shell hit an old school where refugee families were camping.

City streets were littered with bullet casings and wreckage. ECOMOG peacekeepers in camouflage gear patrolled or sat at street corners. A bloated body lay near the side of one street.

Aid workers said gunmen had looted the Save the Children

Fund compound on Sunday night, and only the offices of French aid organisation Action Internationale contre la Faim in the former French embassy remained untouched.

Thousands of Liberians are camped in the relative safety of a US housing compound close to the embassy, sleeping under plastic sheeting surrounded by looted goods, including fridges and sets of china.

The barracks have been the target of mortar fire since fighting erupted 10 days ago when Liberia's coalition government tried to arrest Krahn warlord Roosevelt Johnson on murder charges.

Johnson said he would agree to a truce provided the militias withdrew from around the barracks, that African peacekeepers deployed throughout the city and mediators re-examined arrangements for the transitional government which sacked him from the cabinet last month.

Charles Taylor, leader of the country's biggest militia and a vice-president on the ruling council of state, said Johnson

should surrender.

"As a government, we are not going to negotiate with these terrorists," Taylor told reporters.

He said he and other militia leaders would pull their gunmen off the streets once ECOMOG peacekeepers deployed around the barracks.

The reporter inside the barracks estimated some 15,000 to 20,000 people were sheltering there. "We're surviving as best we can," he said.

Taylor says Johnson is holding people in the barracks as hostages, but the reporter said people had taken refuge there when the fighting began and were afraid to venture out.

"There are no hostages here, they are refugees and displaced. They could go but they are afraid. If you go 50 meters from here you could fall into the hands of another rival group and no one knows what plans they have for you."

US embassy officials said they had flown out about 1,800 foreigners in a six-day airlift operation.

# Italian parties seek killer election punch

ROME (Reuters) - Italy's ill-tempered election campaign entered the home straight yesterday with rival politicians turning on the venom in a last push.

Wary Italians will vote on April 21 for the third time in four years as they struggle to end the turmoil wrought by the destruction of the old governing class in a blaze of corruption.

Leaked secret opinion polls indicated more confusion after the vote and, in a bid to pull clear, center-right leader Silvio Berlusconi questioned the democratic credentials of the center-left Olive Tree coalition.

"Are we sure if the Olive Tree alliance wins we will have the chance of truly free elections again?" the former prime minis-

ter asked at a weekend rally.

Stun by the attack, the center-left charged that media tycoon Berlusconi had entered politics at the behest of Bettino Craxi, a reviled former prime minister living in self-imposed exile in Tunisia beyond the reach of scandal probes.

"Berlusconi's Forza Italia party was a great political idea but I've always suspected that Craxi rather than Berlusconi was behind it," said Massimo D'Alema, whose ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) is the largest group in the Olive Tree.

Berlusconi's allies on the right sought to play down his charge against the left, with the leader of the hard right National Alliance, Gianfranco Fini, saying he

was just being provocative.

"The right has spent the last month being provocative, now they've got a few days left to say something serious," D'Alema told reporters.

Tensions between the two sides have risen in the wake of a number of leaked and contradictory opinion polls.

Under Italian law, voting forecasts cannot be released in the three weeks before an election, but rumors of secret polls suggesting the center-left was in the lead have abounded.

Publio Fiori, a member of the National Alliance and a former government minister, told a rally in Rome that Berlusconi and his allies were now ahead, while D'Alema said the center-left was out in front.

# Russians begin phased withdrawal from Chechnya

GROZNY (AP) - A regiment of Interior Ministry troops pulled out of Chechnya yesterday in the first stage of a phased withdrawal of Russian troops from the breakaway republic, news reports said.

The regiment, which had been deployed in the village of Kargalinskaya, about 90 km north of the capital, Grozny, departed for Dagestan yesterday morning, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

Gen. Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, head of Russian forces in the breakaway republic, announced that the first stage of the withdrawal would be completed over the next six weeks. ITAR-Tass said.

The second stage will last from June to October, with more troops being redeployed across Chechen borders. In the third stage, troops will be returned to their home bases, Tikhomirov said.

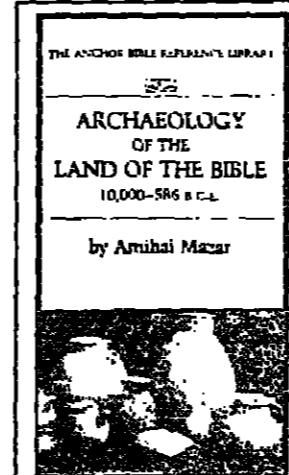
Yesterday's pullout was in keeping with a peace plan proposed last month by President Boris Yeltsin, who is running for re-election in June and is under pressure to resolve the Chechnya war.

Separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has made total Russian troop withdrawal from Chechnya a precondition for talks, and his representative in Moscow reiterated that stand Sunday.

"If federal troops leave tomorrow, talks will begin tomorrow as well," the representative, Vagap Tutakov, told the Interfax news agency.

Dudayev's other demands have included direct talks with Yeltsin and the firing of many of Yeltsin's top ministers - demands the Kremlin has ignored.

Federal troops in Chechnya came under fire from separatist forces 21 times since Sunday, Interfax said.



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## Holocaust moral

MORE than a half century after the end of World War II, world awareness of the Holocaust is greater than it has ever been. It is studied in universities and taught in high schools in several countries, particularly in the US, and it has generated a vast body of literature authored by survivors, scholars, and fiction writers. The Holocaust has also become the archetypal example of the consequences of antisemitism - and a prime target for antisemites. The denial and debunking of this unique phenomenon in history is a rite of passage for today's Jew-haters and bigots. No one foresaw the Holocaust. Even Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the one Zionist leader who in the 1930s persistently warned East European Jews of an imminent disaster and vainly urged them to emigrate to the nascent Jewish national home, could never imagine the enormity of the catastrophe. And even now, what happened defies comprehension, rendering the most valiant attempts to translate the horror to communicable language a hopeless exercise in trivialization. That Israel exists today is not, as many would have it, due to the Holocaust. But it is more than

likely that, had the state been in existence before the war, many European Jews would have been saved. Now that the state is a major regional power, it is assumed that a repetition of the Holocaust is impossible - probably a reasonable assumption. But the combination of irrational fanaticism and non-conventional arms in neighboring countries makes all assumptions conditional on constant Israeli and world vigilance. Nor has the lesson of the Holocaust been absorbed widely enough to signal the decline of antisemitism. If anything, the virulence and passion of today's hatred among Islamic fanatics - not only in the Middle East, but in Europe and America - are all too reminiscent of the ferocity of Europe's deadly disease in the 1930s and 1940s. If there is a danger Israel must beware most, it is the peril of fatigue. No one comes by war weariness more honestly than the people of Israel. But no one can less afford its inexorable consequences: wishful thinking and a distorted view of reality. If there is one Holocaust moral which must never be forgotten, it is that the alternative to a realistic view of the world is death.

## The PNC gathering

WHEN questioned about the wisdom of letting terrorist leaders who have not renounced terrorism enter the Palestinian Authority areas, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said that he would rather have them here than in Syria. His reasoning is that, under the rule of Yasser Arafat, who is presumably committed to eradicating terrorism, they will be less harmful than in Damascus, where "the armed struggle" is supported and encouraged by the regime. Whether it will be Arafat who will moderate the extremists now coming to participate in the projected meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), or it will be they who will radicalize the self-rule territories is open to conjecture. But it is difficult to imagine that Naif Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), or Leila Khaled, the notorious failed hijacker of an El Al airliner and unregenerate anti-Israel propagandist, will enhance the cause of peace. If anything, their rhetoric should only inflame the already seething and embittered PA population, chafing under the burden of the closure. Israel is hoping that the PNC will convene before the deadline of May 7 and quickly repeal the PLO Covenant, or at least the 28 clauses (out of 33) which call for Israel's demise. Government experts say that Arafat has the needed clout to get the necessary two-thirds majority to pass the repeal. If the government is keeping quiet about its expectations, it is because it wants to spare Arafat the embarrassment of seeming to follow Israel's *diktat*. Yet a document circulating in PLO circles and among Israelis negotiating with the PLO is far from being a rejection of the covenant. Intended as a constitution of the Palestinian state, it declares in its preamble that it complements the Palestinian people's struggle, and

reflects the developments in the international, Palestinian, and Israeli arenas. It envisions a republican state united with the Hashemite monarchy. And it defines "Palestinian" as anyone who lived in the British mandate of Palestine and all those born anywhere to a Palestinian father after 1947. This includes all Arabs now living in Israel, Jordan, and the territories, and all descendants of the Arabs who once lived in this country. What it does not do is mention the covenant, let alone its repeal. Moreover, the language of the document does not include an outright declaration of recognition of Israel. It merely says that "The coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples is a question of inevitability, which assumes the commitment of both peoples to the security of each other and respect of each other's traditions, customs, and circumstances." And "The Palestinian state will commit itself to respect the Israeli state and the Palestinian people commit to live in security and peace with the Israeli people." With all due understanding for Palestinian aspirations as defined in this document, it hardly constitutes a repeal of the covenant. It has long been rumored that Arafat would circumvent the need to persuade such rejectionists as Hawatmeh and Khaled to repeal the covenant by simply devising a constitution for a Palestinian state and declaring that it replaces the covenant. But the government has insisted that only an explicit repudiation and repeal of the covenant by the PNC will meet the conditions set out in the second Oslo agreement. And it must be hoped that Israel will insist that these conditions be met. Anything short of that can only indicate that the Arafat is either unable or unwilling to make peace with Israel on behalf of his people.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CLINTON'S VISIT

Sir, - I refer to Yehudit Keshet's letter of March 31, "Provincial pettiness." We agree that President Clinton is unwavering in his support for Israel and we indeed appreciated his visit to Israel in the wake of the most recent wave of terrorist attacks. However, Mayor Olmert believed that, as Jerusalem was the center of the terrorist attacks, both recently and just six months ago in Ramat Eshkol, it would seem fitting that the president would want to pay a visit to the city which bore the brunt of the attacks. Mayor Olmert offered the Prime Minister's Office several suggestions including: visiting a high school which lost eight students; visiting the injured in the hospital; or visiting one of the explosion sites - but all were rejected. When Mayor Olmert met with President Clinton on the morning of his visit and told him how important he believed a visit in Jerusalem would be, President Clinton understood and altered his schedule on the

spot to include a visit to the Beit Hinuch High School. Following the visit, President Clinton told Mayor Olmert that he was grateful for the opportunity. For the record, Mayor Olmert allowed the municipality staff to help in preparing for the president's visit once the city was promised that the lives of the city's residents would not be disrupted. In addition, once President Clinton changed his schedule to include Jerusalem students on his agenda, Mayor Olmert lifted the ban preventing students from attending the Tel Aviv event, albeit too late. Finally, the municipality has received hundreds of letters from city residents complimenting us for cleaning up the city. It is a pity that your correspondent filed a complaint that Jerusalem "is looking dirtier and shabbier" in the context of a letter regarding Clinton's visit. HAGAI ELIAS, Municipality Spokesman Jerusalem.

### AN EYE FOR AN EYE

Sir, - It is time that Israel come to terms with its moralistic attitude that criminals will not be executed regardless of what heinous acts they have committed against the citizens of Israel.

Considering the many recent bombings and the slaughter carried out by Arab terrorists, it is my belief that a change in policy has to be made. Israel must let it be known that whenever a terrorist killing occurs, at least two of that organization's prisoners in Israeli detention centers will be executed for each Jewish victim. Peace treaties and the sanctity of human life offer no deterrence to the killings. The sealing-off and demolition of homes of Hamas terrorists has proven ineffective.

Israel was able to carry out the death sentence against Eichmann for the genocide against Jews. I see little difference when Islamic terrorists are killing Jews. LOUIS BOXER, Key Largo, Florida.

### EXPRESSION OF PAIN AND SHAME

Sir - At last, in Aharon Megged's article ("Words to a wimp," March 22), we find an expression of our pain and our shame, of our lack of self-respect, of disappointment at our own government's blind, naive, wrong-headed "serenade" of the Arab foe, an expression of frustration at finding the *galut* still within us here. He states the case eloquently, and yet he does not go far enough. The Arab deputy mayor of Taibe complains on the day after the bombing: "You are damaging the

image of the decent Arab." Why does no one say: "You people are murdering ours, wantonly and savagely. When you and other leaders take concrete action against them, we can distinguish between you - we will know exactly who are our enemies and who are our friends. Until then, expect collective punishment, because there is collective guilt. When you point to Hamas, you insult our intelligence. We don't believe you. Don't these cowardly adolescents ever take off their masks? Don't they come out of

houses in the morning, return somewhere at night? Don't they have neighbors who see them, know them? You know who they are and where they are. When you take no steps to curb their murderous acts, you participate in them." When no one rises to passionately demand respect for the blood that is being shed, how can we possibly expect the Arabs to grasp our anguish and our pent-up fury? MENAHEM GRANOFF, Netanya.



# False figures

TOM GROSS

IN the course of European history the Romanies, whom English speakers more commonly call "gypsies," have suffered persecutions second only to the Jews. Some examples: In 1725, Prussia decreed Romanies were "vermin" that could be hanged without trial. In 17th-century Bohemia and Moravia their bodies were hung along the country's borders to discourage others from entering. And up until the middle of the last century, Romanies were frequently enslaved in what is now Romania. Worst of all, they were the only other group besides the Jews subjected to mass extermination by the Nazis.

Echoes of the Holocaust remain. Unbelievable as it may sound, some local mayors in Hungary and Romania have cited what amounts to extermination as the solution to the "Gypsy problem"; in the Czech Republic, a local police chief has said people are getting "nostalgic" for Hitler. In Slovakia Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar has spoken of the need to "reduce the Romany population."

In the West there may not be the same kind of outright racism, but there is widespread hostility, often compounded by astonishing ignorance.

A NUMBER of journalists and international organizations have recently begun to take notice of the Romany plight - a welcome trend given the notorious lack of concern the international community has traditionally shown these people, who, at between six and eight million (two thirds living in Central and Eastern Europe), now comprise Europe's largest stateless minority.

But accompanying this is a disturbing trend: the great exaggeration of the number of Romanies murdered by the Nazis.

Caroline Moorehead, writing recently in the *London Daily Telegraph*, says "up to a million died"; the same figure is cited by Sian Powell in *The Australian*. Denise Hamilton in the *Los Angeles Times* mentions a figure of 1.2 million.

A recent reference in Britain's *Guardian* referred to the victims of Nazism as "Gypsies, Jews, and

The world is at last taking note of the Gypsy plight under the Nazis - at the price of downplaying Jewish suffering

others," in that order. The new false figures are now appearing as "fact" in the mainstream media, even though there is no historical evidence whatsoever to support them.

While exact figures for the total numbers of Romanies murdered by the Nazis are not known, a figure of 200,000-220,000 is generally accepted by most historians. Although some have suggested that as many as 500,000 died in the war, these calculations include Romanies who died not as a result of deliberate genocide but in fighting on the front, or in air raids and other bombardments. No serious historian has suggested anything greater than this number.

Nazi policies regarding the Romanies were inconsistent. Some types were targeted for extermination; others (while often very badly treated) were spared death. For this reason most historians have drawn a distinction between the wholesale murder of Romanies and the Nazi campaign to kill every single Jew, the Holocaust.

Though the journalists who cite these inflated figures may be unaware of the fact, they originally stem from deliberate falsification. The phenomenon of inflating previously accepted statistics of Romanies murdered by the Nazis originated in the 1960s in Germany. It was done by bogus "research" groups trying to minimize the Jewish "share" of suffering and death in the Holocaust.

But recently, even bona fide advocates of Romany rights have sought to promote their case by downplaying Jewish suffering and implicitly or explicitly attacking leading Jewish Holocaust historians like Professor Yehuda Bauer and the late Lucy Davidowicz for ignoring the Romanies.

In an age of increased revisionism and Holocaust denial, playing around with the figures is dangerous. It makes the historical evidence of what the Romanies actually suffered seem less certain, and ultimately detracts from their rightful case.

The writer, now working for The Jerusalem Post, served as UN special advisor on Czech Romanies from 1993 to 1995, based in Prague.

## Holocaust & renewal

SHULAMIT ALONI

It has taken the community of mankind 50 years to understand that the Holocaust of European Jewry was not the catastrophe of the Jewish people alone but, to no less a degree, a disaster and a monstrous crime that has left its mark upon the entire human race.

It has taken the community of nations 50 years to realize that the Six Million who were massacred by the Nazis were not an integral part of the millions of people who lost their lives during World War II in the struggle between national forces battling over control of land and fighting for *lebensraum*.

The six million Jews were casualties in a different category: victims of a deliberate, cold-blooded policy of hatred, racism and evil rooted in racial arrogance and contempt for the other simply for being other; a policy of dispossession and destruction of those who are different for the simple reason of their difference.

The Nazis systematically organized and calculated the massacre of Europe's Jews. It was history's most horrifying manifestation of the collective capacity to cast off all morality and all inhibitions, to dispense with all considerations of good and evil. It was a manifestation of total rejection of the very image of man and God.

The Holocaust was the most terrible tragedy ever to befall the Jewish people; but above all it was a mark of Cain branded forever upon the brow of all mankind.

From this point on, any theory of morality, any system of ethics, any code of law and legality will have to relate to the events and lessons of the Holocaust, to what evil human beings are capable of when driven

by hatred of those who are different. As far as we Jews of Israel and the Diaspora are concerned, in the 50 years that have passed since we were able to rehabilitate ourselves, we have risen up out of the ashes to provide a safe haven for our uprooted people. We have established a strong, advanced and sovereign state which has become the focus of the

national, cultural and religious consciousness of the Jewish people. In the building of our state and the rehabilitation of Jewish communities abroad, we have always carried with us the memory of the Holocaust, that most terrible atrocity against our people, and of the Six Million who were murdered; and we have passed that memory on to our children and grandchildren, teaching them never to forget, to fight to ensure it never happens again.

HOWEVER, neither the people of Israel nor the individual in Israel lives by physical security and historical memory alone. We are aware of our origins and our history; we must also be conscious of our future objectives in creating a humane society composed of Jewish communities ingathered from 102 countries.

We have attained physical, economic and social security, and are no longer engaged in the struggle for survival. In this rapidly changing world, it is our duty to shape the identity of our society and enhance its Jewish significance, to develop values both particular and universal, and to give profound thought to the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora communities, and to Israel's international relations.

Our collective memory unites us in a profound feeling of partnership and belonging. But for it to have relevance in the future, we must imbue the feeling with morality and culture, cultivating a meaningful existence that draws inspiration from our prophets, from the values of justice, and from the historic experience of our people in the community of nations. Now that peace in our region is within reach and the world is open before us and we - Israelis and the Jewish people at large - are open to the world, the time has come for the intellectual leaders among us, writers, artists and scientists, to usher in a new Renaissance that will influence our dialogue with the rest of the world, contributing to a richer, better and more ethical culture, one to which our younger generation will be proud to belong.

The writer is minister of science and the arts. The above is a speech she is due to make tonight in the US.

## Ill will, civilly conveyed

MORRIS B. ABRAM

In the two decades since the UN General Assembly passed its notorious 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism, most Jews have demonstrated little interest in this international body. Even when the GA repealed "Zionism is Racism" in 1992, the Jewish community took little note. Today, with states lining up to support the peace process and recognize Israel, the UN can seem irrelevant.

Yet it continues to broadcast and inspire intense animosity toward Israel and Jews, with vigorous help from hundreds of the 1,600 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which enjoy consultative status on the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). NGOs are independent, privately-funded groups representing international memberships engaged in humanitarian and religious work around the world.

ECOSOC commissions and conferences form the congress between states and the "civil society" which NGOs embody, and many use this platform to condemn Israel or Jewish interests.

A recent example is the UN's annual November 29 meeting for Palestinian solidarity. The World Young Women's Christian Association representative, speaking for "1,200 member organizations" of the NGO Coordinating Committee on Palestine, dismissed the peace process as "a mirage." The Coordinating Committee and the UN Secretariat had just denied the World Jewish Congress, also an NGO, the right to speak in support of Israeli-PLO negotiations.

The UN's anti-Israel machinery endures despite the peace process, reinforcing the anti-Israel NGOs. Through speeches and intense lobbying, NGOs help shape a collective UN spirit which often colors diplomats' votes. Their audience reaches millions worldwide who take UN pronouncements - even NGO speeches - at face value.

NGOs publish thousands of titles annually in every language which, with TV, radio, conferences, speeches and now Internet, allows them unprecedented and unparalleled global access. They use public

opinion to affect policy decisions of leaders and diplomats. Last year the UN Secretary General lauded NGOs as the "key" to "a great global movement."

One notable anti-discrimination group advertises mostly anti-Israel titles like "Applying the Anti-Apartheid Principles to the Middle East" and "History of Discrimination: Israel in Palestine."

The UN goes on spreading hatred of Israel and Jews, with vigorous help from hundreds of NGOs

Another NGO, Middle East Watch, issued a 1993 report on Israel's treatment of Palestinians, with the unsubstantiated title, "A License to Kill."

The International Commission of Jurists, comprising distinguished judges and lawyers, verbally and publicly attacked the UN's Special Rapporteur on Israeli Practices in the Occupied Territories, who had tried to end his mission in view of the peace process. And it issued a well-publicized report declaring that the Israeli government "openly endorsed torture."

NGOs were supposed to represent "the peoples" of the United Nations, free from the fetters of state propaganda. Yet volumes of today's worst anti-Israel diatribe flows from some NGOs themselves, including "friends" of the Jewish community.

ANTI-ZIONISM often masks antisemitism, and occasionally the mask drops. In a UN meeting last spring, the representative for a prominent church organization called a Jewish speaker "Judeo-Nazi." The "Judaization" of the Middle East has been seriously debated by NGOs in ECOSOC's

The writer, chairman of United Nations Watch, is former US permanent representative to the UN in Geneva and a past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

# Straight Gin and a mixer of pop-soul

IN TUNE  
DAVID BRINN

## CONGRATULATIONS FM SORRY Gin Blossoms (Helicon)

THIS is rock 'n' roll as the alternative rock god meant it to be - accessible, jangly guitar chords, a big beat, and angelic harmonies. Based in Tempe, Arizona, this five-piece band often sounds like early REM with the addition of Roger McGuinn as lead vocalist. A follow-up to its blockbuster 1993 breakthrough *New Miserable Experience*, *Congratulations I'm Sorry* basically treads water, but when you're swimming in such an intoxicating river, who cares? The band has admirably taken up the songwriting slack left by the death of main scribe Doug Hopkins, with the only noticeable shortcomings being the lyrics, which lack Hopkins's alcohol-fueled cynical insights into human nature.

The five-way collaborative effort "Follow you Down" is an exuberant piece of music, up to par with the previous album's hit single "Found Out About You." Thankfully, the band has pared down the the country and Cajun experiments of the last album and sticks to what it does best. In a perfect world, this is the music you'd be hearing on the radio every day.

**I AM (J. Ke' (Hed Artzt)**  
This striking yet erratic debut by Ke' (as in Special K) solves the musical question of what happens if you cross George Michael and Tracy Chapman.

A 23-year-old who grew up in both the US and Europe and who possesses a gorgeous female-pitched voice similar to Chapman's, Ke' has adeptly complemented the white pop-soul genre best represented by Michael.

Ke' is one serious fellow. There's not one lighthearted song here, and even the title, *I AM (J)* means "I Am Nothing." But don't let his dour self-analysis stand in the way of some perfectly crafted pop. He would have been called a stunning singer-songwriter back in the old days. He even identifies with the genre by neatly co-opting

the words to James Taylor's "Fire and Rain" in "Holding On," one of the many songs with choruses that will embed themselves in our minds.

Defying musical genres, Ke' sounds like he's digested the complete history of pop and spat it back as his own. Of course, there's good and bad in that. Who needs songs that sound like the Hues Corporation or, more blatantly, a cover version of Melanie's *Lay Down*? But more often than not, Ke' strikes the right chords, musically and emotionally, and his truly amazing vocal ability is something to marvel at.

Tasteful without being too slick, mellow without being boring, Ke's debut is a refreshing reminder that pop does not need to be pap.

**Rock and roll confidential**  
It's been almost five years since I listened to a record out of obligation.

That five-year span is really like a few decades in the MTV-dominated star-making machinery of pop music, where careers are made and fade in the course of a few months. Fads and trends have come and gone that I'm not even aware of. And that's fine with me.

More important is the long line of connections that have kept rock 'n' roll vital and fresh, long after it should have been declared DOA. What I find most tantalizing is digging out the musicians and performers who are making those connections, and in the process constantly reinventing the form.

Does writing about rock 'n' roll have any meaning? The debate whether it's a valid art form has long become irrelevant: Those who think it is build halls of fame; those who don't, listen to Michael Bolton. I've long given up trying to justify my 30-year-old obsession with noisy guitars and three-part harmonies.

Great rock 'n' roll should inspire, offend, provoke joy or anger and make you laugh, sometimes all at once. Heartfelt Paul Simon lyrics aren't any more valid in this form than the Ramones singing "beat on the brat with a baseball bat."

Above all, great rock & roll



Ke' shows off a prodigious if sometimes overly eclectic talent.

should make you want to get out of your seat. Never underestimate the importance of the back beat.

As long as scruffy teens still continue to gather in garages and plug in to amplifiers, there lies a chance of a rock 'n' roll spark catching fire. The ultimate thrill in

reviewing records is discovering that spark, whether it be in a new artist, or a grizzled veteran. There'll be lots of side roads and even dead ends, but I hope you'll join me on, as Ian Hunter aptly put it, the "mighty long way down rock 'n' roll."

restless, carnal choreography and bizarre make-up) only serve to destroy the play's impact on the audience.

And if only that were all! Due to a lack of polish in manners and mannerisms (which results in a lack of authority in the actors) Shabtai Conorti's inane decadent despot excepted, the dramatic climate is not remotely reminiscent of a German court of the post-Thirty Years War era.

Another unexplained element is the intrusion of choruses, sung and danced, in what is a half-achieved musical. Starting out from heavy, serious historic hindsight this show merely serves to blur the fine line between subtle, poetic surrealization and blatant eye-boggling showbiz.

Canadian Edith Wiens's luminous soprano expressed anguished pleas and deep grief with equal force. The pure, intense tenor of Britain's Nigel Robson created a profoundly disturbing experience, and the Swedish baritone Hakan Hagegard, with his warm, mellow voice, evoked the ultimate, chilling dirge in *I am the enemy you killed, my friend... Let us sleep now*.

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Jerusalem International Convention Center, April 7. Ury Eppstein

# Ballet: 'Don Quixote' gets a Russian accent

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

BORN in Siberia a pair of prisoners, it's little wonder that choreographer Boris Eifman most closely identifies with the ballet *Don Quixote*.

While he tilted at Soviet windmills during his career with the St. Petersburg Ballet Theater, Eifman, unlike the delusional knight, often hit his target.

Now the 50-year-old choreographer is bringing his company here, and those who are expecting to see the traditional Russian ballet version of *Don Quixote* are in for a surprise.

"The story takes place in a contemporary insane asylum, where one of the inmates dreams he is Don Quixote," explains Eifman in a phone conversation from his St. Petersburg apartment. "He wants to fly away from this place. A doctor tries to make him 'normal,' but he has an imagination. He cannot be normal, and this is a problem because actually only crazy people have such ideas."

"I am a Don Quixote, too. I remember when I looked like that one crazy person. I had ideas but no possibilities. It's the story of the artists and intelligentsia before perestroika."

Eifman founded the company in 1977, but its first decade was a tough battle for survival. "In

the first 10 years we had hard times. We created new ballets, but at the time the Soviet Union was very conservative, so we had problems with the Ministry of Culture. I created new Russian ballets, new forms, new ideas, and we enjoyed success with new young people, but we could not travel because we were not granted permission. We toured a lot only in the USSR."

Things changed only with the political thaw in Russia. "After 1988-89, we got our freedom and began our second life. We started to tour all over the world with our 55 dancers. We tour much more than performing at home. Our life is improving now."

Eifman, who is the sole creator for his company, explains the secret of its success is that "we mix Russian soul, Russian passion and a kind of classical ballet with modern dance. We find new kinds of ballet; we mix the traditional classical with the modern."

Of the three major new ballets Eifman has created in the past few years, *Don Quixote*, in a way, is the least revolutionary, yet the most personal.

"I mix theater of the absurd, classical and modern dance. It looks like classical, and this mix

of modern and classical gives a new effect for the ballet. You can see traditional Russian ballet and what is new, two kinds of Russian ballet and a lot of humor too. It's a funny ballet, especially in the madhouse."

Eifman studied at the Leningrad Conservatory in the faculty of choreography, and after graduating was invited to work with the leading companies in the former Soviet Union. "I worked in the Kirov and Bolshoi and for television too."

He felt stifled, however, always subservient to other people's ideas. "I was not allowed to do what I wanted, I had to work in traditions I wanted to change."

Now Eifman can do what he wants, and he does not see himself in competition with the more famous Kirov Ballet from the same city. "I did some things for the Kirov, but after '77 I stopped working for them. I have a good relationship with them, but our artistic ways are different. Kirov is a museum devoted to the classical style."

The St. Petersburg Ballet Theater presents Boris Eifman's version of *Don Quixote* tonight in Netanya, Wednesday in Jerusalem, Thursday in Tel Aviv, Friday in Karmiel, Saturday in Beersheba and next Sunday in Haifa.

# It's ragas to riches: Guha and anti-'War Requiem'

CONCERT ROUNDUP

FOUR outstanding Indian musicians, the singer Sumitra Guha and three instrumentalists, gave us a fascinating entrée into a very different classical tradition.

Guha's accompaniment consists of the tabla (hand drum), a zither-like string instrument, the four-stringed *tanpura*, and the *sarangi* (or *esraj*) - a stringed instrument played with a bow, like a violin, but from the knee.

Seated in the *lous* position, the ensemble presented a two-hour concert consisting of four pieces, each one of considerable length.

Indian musical theory divides the octave into 66 microtones, of which only 22 are actually employed. The 22 tones are derived from seven basic tones, which have their equivalent in the European diatonic scale.

In classical Indian music each raga (or piece of music) expresses a single emotion. Of Guha's ragas, the first expressed tranquility and peace, the second the mood of spring and the last two devotion (to the deity).

ZOA House, Tel Aviv, April 2. Benjamin Bar-Am

VIOLA da gambist Jordi Savall, with his Capella Reil de Catalunya, in the *Authentica* series, brought to life the music of the 16th-17th centuries, mostly by Spanish and Italian composers. The human warmth that these artists instill into this ancient music, the emotional immediacy, but also the good-humored playfulness and the intensity of expression, do not let one realize that these works are so old.

The joie de vivre of some instrumental pieces, mostly dances, is straightforward and infectious. The virtuosity of Savall's gamba, often considered drab and lackluster, is sparkling. Scheidt's moving, sorrowful *Cherubim dolorosa* for harp (Andrew Lawrence-King) and Antonio Martin's fascinatingly delicate *Canarios* counted among the instrumental highlights.

Montserrat Figuera's glamorous, seductive soprano expresses the desperate sorrow of Monteverdi's *Nymph's Lament* no less intensely than the deliciously capricious, *Do not praise her charms*. Carlos Mena's caressing counterpoint creates a striking male counterpart of the high human voice. Musical drama, stylized yet poignant, at a time when opera was still a novelty, was impressively performed in Monteverdi's works from his *Books of Madrigals*.

Long as the program was, the audience did not feel like leaving when it was all over. Nor did the artists, as they proved with their large number of encores.

Jerusalem Theater, April 11. Ury Eppstein

CONDUCTOR Mendi Rodan's wisdom was reflected in his selection of pieces for the Jerusalem Rubin Academy Chamber Orchestra's concert in the Youth at the Center series - not too

demanding but securely within the natural grasp of youthful musicians.

The intimate contact between conductor and orchestra, the noticeable results of this collaboration, and its members' obvious joy of playing were a delight to behold. Haydn's Symphony No. 6 sounded fresh and vibrant. The technical polish was remarkable even in the decidedly tricky solo episodes of woodwinds and horn.

"Ben-Haim's 'Music for Strings' - a refreshingly energetic and impeccably transparent canon - and a convincingly projected Mediterranean mood expressed with Israeli mainstream music.

Soloist Yuval Zoran (19), a disciple of Benjamin Oren, conveyed in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2 the youthful energies and fleeting lyricism of the young composer. Lively spontaneity, sensitivity to emotional content, and seemingly effortless technique were encouraging indications of a budding musical talent.

Jerusalem Music Centre, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, March 29. Ury Eppstein

AN all-Vivadi program in the Beersheba Sinfonietta Classical Series No. 5, conducted by concertmaster Yaron Prensley and featuring soloists from the ranks of the orchestra, turned out to be the season's most successful box-office draw.

Performances of the four concertos and two sinfonias by the 18th-century Venetian master were zestful as well as musically well-informed. The concerto for four violins captured the feverish intensity of the Italian Baroque in brilliant instrumental figurations. Whence this popular appeal?

Perhaps the attraction is in the music's optimism, spontaneity and clarity.

Beersheba Conservatory, April 13. Max Stern

# Director makes a virtue of gimmickry

THE JEW SUSS

By Paul Kornfeld, Hebrew, Neri Gevul-Schwartz, Direction, Robert Woodruff, Set, Roni Toren, Costumes, Tova Kleiner-Sadon, Lighting, Felice Ross Bar-Lev, Music, Ori Vidilavsky, Hebrew text, Hayshelet Zuss, The Beersheba Municipal Theater at the Beersheba Auditorium.

The Duke - Shabtai Conorti  
Chief minister - Alon Aborhot  
The Jew Suss - Doron Tabor  
Master of Ceremonies - Ch. Alon  
The Duchess - Lani Shaaf  
A Countess - Sarit Winograd

DISAPPOINTMENT in this production must be measured against the high expectations it had aroused in everyone concerned. After its American director brought such kudos to Beersheba with his version of the Jacobean drama *The Changeling*, last year, no one

THEATER REVIEW  
NAOMI DOUDAI

doubted that with *Jew Suss* he would surpass himself again. His scintillating effects last year earned him so much admiration, that the present production was allotted a prime slot in the coming Israel Festival long before the premiere.

Since 1827 the theme of the obsequious Court Jew has been variously treated in theater and novel form. Feuchtwanger's best-seller novel of 1925 was followed by many interpretations. Goebbels's antisemitic propaganda film among them. Kornfeld's 1930 version was first performed in Berlin.

Woodruff's interpretation of the

latter is a stylized, surrealized adaptation, unaccountably set in a railway station, with costumes equally unaccountably fluctuating between period and modern dress.

Unaccountably they are unless you can crack the symbolic conundrums on which, together with intellectual theatrical acrobatics and metaphors, Woodruff, a director's director, is obviously hooked.

However, while the transfer of Jacobean poetry to daring visual imagery worked well for *The Changeling*, it obscures the deeper significances of *Jew Suss*. Here the welter of erotic and esoteric gimmicks (sodomy, rape, nudity,

restless, carnal choreography and bizarre make-up) only serve to destroy the play's impact on the audience.

And if only that were all! Due to a lack of polish in manners and mannerisms (which results in a lack of authority in the actors) Shabtai Conorti's inane decadent despot excepted, the dramatic climate is not remotely reminiscent of a German court of the post-Thirty Years War era.

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Jerusalem International Convention Center, April 7. Ury Eppstein

# Tapping into an American tradition again

AFTER five successful and successive "festivals," could Avi Miller surprise us with his Sixth Annual Jazz Tap Dance Festival? He could, and he did.

The performance he brought to Jerusalem at the Gerard Behar Theater on April 8 (after a debut in Ra'anana) topped the lot. Four extraordinary dancer-teachers came from the US to demonstrate that tap dance is not only alive and well, but reaching out and developing new ways - something essential to all art forms - not only in "steps" (as tap dance is called here) but in the whole approach to body movement.

To whatever wonder the visitors

DANCE REVIEW  
DORA SOWDEN

offered in footwork, they added a flexibility and expressiveness that raised their skills to an art beyond mere toe-and-heel dexterity. There were no mere athletic acrobatics. Individual in their styles, the four had a happy grace and made the audience happy, too, which is particularly important in these times.

Four musicians wove their synchopations on piano, saxophones, double bass and drums as though they had been playing for them forever and knew exactly where and when to stop and change.

The intricacies of the dancers' choreography was full of trills and shadings, leaps and slides and the myriad embellishments that such dancers can give to new steps, giving "voice" to their solos.

Barbara Duffy, who opened the program, had the mobilitico of conscious mastery in her intricate vocabulary. Van "The Man" Porter knew how to interlace humor in his fabulous facility of

stops and steps, slippings and slidings. Lisa Hopkins (in a spangled top) showed her elegance and expertise in her own manner. Ira Bernstein, a joy to watch, seemed to be saying that anything anybody could do, he could do better.

Of the Israelis, Avi Miller himself and Ofer Ben proved they could hold their own with style and method, while others (including Zvia Brumer) increased the sense of achievement.

The musicians were Eli Magen, Arale Kaminsky, Amikam Kamelman and Yaron Gottfried.

# TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	3	VARIOUS ARTISTS	RABIN - GOODBYE FRIEND COMPILATION
#2	1	3	RITMO ARTZTI	TWO
#3	3	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS	BEST OF DREAM MUSIC
#4	4	5	VARIOUS ARTISTS	GREATEST HITS
#5	5	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS	X-FILES
#6	21	2	TV SOUND TRACK	JAGGED LITTLE PILL
#7	12	3	ALANIS MORISSETTE	DANNY LITANI
#8	11	5	VARIOUS ARTISTS	SHINE ON VOL. 1
#9	NEW	1	ABBA	GREATEST HITS
#10	14	10	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MORNING GLORY
#11	9	14	VARIOUS ARTISTS	APPLES AND DATES
#12	17	2	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	THIS PLACE
#13	6	3	MURIT GALRON	SLEEPWALK
#14	14	2	VARIOUS ARTISTS	GOLDEN HEART
#15	NEW	1	MARIK KNOFER	

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry



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# I was guarded by angels

Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau remembers the horrors of the camps, and the miracles

IT was 1945. I spent the first 10 days of the year in the labor camp of Czesochowa, where the inmates worked mainly in the nearby munitions factory. I was then seven and a half years old. My brother, Naphtali (Lavie), 11 years older, was with me.

In November 1944, when we arrived in Czesochowa from Piotrkow (Poland), the city of my birth, the camp officer gathered the prisoners, among them a sprinkling of children. I stood in line next to the Jewish group leader. The smallest one there, I surreptitiously gathered up dirt and stones and prepared a little mound under the delusion that, if I stood on it, my short stature would not be conspicuous.

It was clear that the children, not productive, were to be liquidated and the sentence was about to be carried out. My protest at that time, my maiden speech, is engraved upon my memory.

I claimed that children are definitely useful, and there is no reason to dispense with us as a labor force. I said that I had worked in the glass factory in Hortensja, where I delivered carts with bottles of water for the workers at the furnaces. Eight hours at a stretch. I tugged carts of water from the snow outside to the furnaces inside (and got rheumatism). I said I knew how to polish boots.

I managed to stay alive, at a price of course — father's Schaffhausen pocket watch as a ransom.

We subsisted alternately on potatoes and a few grams of bread a day, and slept on the damp earth.

Early in January, we heard Russian artillery fire. We were afraid that we'd be caught in the German-Russian crossfire. Then came the announcement: we were to assemble in the lot by the building. Within a few minutes we were released. It had been decided to transport us to Germany.

ANOTHER SELECTION. Men go here, women and children go there. Naphtali realized there was a reason for that and hid me behind his back. The down pillow my mother had strapped to

my back to serve as a blanket stuck out. The officer noticed it, came over behind me, grabbed me by the neck, lifted me up, and tossed me two or three meters in the air toward a group of women and children.

We plodded to the train in the snow. It was piled so high that I saw nothing but mountains of snow that those in front of me had trudged up with their feet.

We heard shots. David Feiner, a relative of the writer Katzetnik (Yehiel Diner), collapsed to the right of me and did not get up. The snow turned red from his blood.

We arrived at the train, which consisted of cattle cars. Naphtali saw them lift me into one of the front cars. The men were squeezed into the rear of the train.

He reasoned that if they separated the men from the women and children, then on the way they would separate the two sections for different destinations.

He and two friends from Piotrkow who were with him figured out how to open the doors. Thereafter every time the train stopped Naphtali crawled underneath along the tracks and rails, counting the cars and shouting, "Lulek," then rushed back to his car.

He went through this routine three times. On the fourth try he reached my car, and continued shouting, "Lulek." I rushed toward him, my cheeks streaked with tears.

He hurriedly pulled me underneath the train, filled his cap with snow for drinking, and we crawled toward his car. His two friends pulled us inside and closed the door.

That's when we burst out crying for the first time. We arrived in Buchenwald, Weimar (in eastern Germany), without knowing where we were.

Since my brother suspected that only the grown-ups were going into the camp, and the children would be shot, he put me in a sack, placed it over his shoulder and entered the camp. Naphtali took me out of the sack.

In the inspection room at the entrance were guards equipped with dogs, clubs and rifle butts.

"Schnell! Schnell! Hurry up!" We had to strip, toss our things in a pile, and submit to head shaving and disinfection.

An interned Czech doctor was giving anti-typhus inoculations to all who entered. He asked my age. "Thirteen," I replied. Then he turned to Naphtali. "Better tell the truth," he cautioned. "Otherwise, he'll die on the spot from the injection."

"Seven and a half," admitted Naphtali. The doctor looked around to make sure he wasn't being observed, discarded half of the contents, and injected the rest into my arm. I felt angels were watching over me moment by moment in this crucial year.

We were transferred to block No. 52, containing mostly Jews. I was given the smallest pajamas they could find, and Dutch wooden clogs.

The snow and the cold of January 1945 were simply beyond description. Anyone who stalled on the way would be splashed with water that immediately turned to ice. The trousers were transformed into grating tarpaulins that dug into the flesh.

ONCE AGAIN I was blessed with divine grace. Through Naphtali's efforts I got into block No. 8, which housed Russian prisoners.

There the conditions were much improved, and included soup every day. One imprisoned officer, Fyodor from Rostov, adopted me. He got me a fur hat and crocheted me with ear muffs.

One day I saw a group of "muschmen" (still-breathing skeletons) moving toward the gate. Tolek (Naphtali's nickname), who had difficulty shuffling along, came up to me.

"Lulek," he said. "They're taking me. We'll never see each other again. You're a big boy already. I don't see that this hell will ever end. No one will come out of it alive."

"But if a miracle should occur and you do survive, you should know that there is a place called Eretz Yisrael and you have an uncle there."

This was the first time I heard the words Eretz Yisrael.

"Remember to say that you are Lulek Lau from Piotrkow. Your uncle will find you. Shalom, Lulek."

And then he added, "Repeat after me: 'Eretz Yisrael' — that's a place where they don't kill Jews."

And then, crawling through the snow, he returned to his place. That was on April 6. On April 11 we heard cannons approaching. They were General Patton's forces. Two American planes circled in the heavens, and before noon two American jeeps entered the camp.

The people were running from the camp toward the forest, even though German sentries were still standing with machine guns to mow down escapees.

A heap of bodies had piled up at the gate. My block was near the gate, so I also ran. Then I stumbled from exhaustion behind a pile of bodies...

FORTY YEARS later, at a state ceremony in Maryland, in the presence of president Reagan, the American chaplain Hershel Schechter, who was among the first to enter Buchenwald, described the scene: Behind a mound of bodies was a living pair of eyes. He grabbed his revolver in panic and circled the pile of bodies. Then he saw a Jewish child, grabbed him and hugged him. "How old are you?" he asked, with tears in his eyes.

The child disliked uniforms. At first there had been blue shirts, then brown, then green, and now uniforms again, and a steel helmet. "How old are you?" asked the rabbi, crying.

"What difference does it make?" I answered. "In any case, I am older than you."

The rabbi smiled through his tears. "Why do you think you are older?"

"Because you laugh and cry like a child," I answered. "I haven't laughed for years, and now I can't even cry any more."

"So tell me, who is older?" They dressed me in a Hitler Jugend uniform from the warehouse, the only serviceable clothing there. Naphtali lay feverish from typhus, close to death.



Yisrael Lau as a boy (at right) with his big brother Naphtali.

A few days later, the Russian officer, Fyodor, was about to take me back with him to Russia, and I came to take leave of Naphtali. He arranged to have people guard me to prevent the officer from taking me.

A month after liberation, Naphtali recovered from typhus, and I recovered from chicken pox under quarantine.

We were sent to a convalescent camp run by a French-Jewish health organization in Equis, not far from Paris.

Someone from our town reported to my brother that our mother had perished in Ravensbruck toward the end of

the war.

Naphtali told me about it. Then he taught me to say *Kaddish* — my first words in Hebrew.

We were in the first group of Youth Aliya that came to Israel after the war. We arrived in Afula in mid-July 1945, just before Tisha Be'av, in great confusion. Once again, we were quarantined behind a fence. And then, in Afula, a new brother came to life for me, Yehoshua.

It turned out that my oldest brother, whose existence Naphtali had never mentioned in order to spare me anguish, had succeeded in reaching Israel the

previous year.

Our brother, who had read the list of arrivals in the newspapers, came to the camp. After some entreaties, the British guards let him enter and embrace us.

Two weeks later we were free — this time for ever.

This article was translated and adapted by Lisa Myers and Shira Leibowitz Schmidt from an article that appeared in *Ha'arets*.

Some additional details were provided by Rabbi Lau's brother, Naphtali Lavie, whose book *Am K'Lavie is due to be released this fall by Cornwall Publishers, in the US.*

## 'I would collect the songs that came from the soul'

A concentration-camp prisoner who had seen the body of his murdered child destroyed in a Nazi crematorium appealed to another inmate: Write a song to preserve the memory.

For the man who had just arrived at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp outside Berlin, Aleksander Kulisiewicz wrote, "Lullaby for My Little Son in the Crematorium" in 1942:

"Here he lies, my only little boy

Tiny fists pressed in his mouth  
How can I cast you into the flames?"

Kulisiewicz, a Polish journalist with a passion for music, wrote 54 songs during the five years he was interned at Sachsenhausen for publishing an anti-Nazi article. He memorized hundreds more during illegal songfests, and after the war devoted his life to collecting music from other survivors.

Before his death in 1982, he compiled the survivors' songs and memories in a 2,200-page manuscript that is being published in Germany.

"I told myself while I was still in the camp that others would collect political documents about the prisoners who were killed. I would rather collect songs and lyrics that came from the soul," Kulisiewicz told an interviewer several years before he died.

In Sachsenhausen, as well as Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, Auschwitz and other Nazi camps, the songs were a vehicle for prisoners to record their experiences. But they also helped prisoners cope with the miseries they suffered, said Guenter Morsch, director of the Foundation of Brandenburg Memorials, which oversees the preservation of Sachsenhausen.

"Very simply, they tried to remain human beings, and singing was a survival tactic," Morsch said. They sang about home, about life before prison. Their repertoire included love songs, travel songs, patriotic songs. While prisoners sometimes composed their own lyrics and music, they mostly sang traditional folk songs.

Collecting the songs became a near-obsession for Kulisiewicz, said his son Krzysztof, a translator who later helped his father answer letters from their home in Cracow, Poland. Kulisiewicz's job as a regional reporter for the government press agency in Poland allowed him to travel and visit other former prisoners. Later, he was able to trace others abroad with the help of survivors' organizations.

He stashed the reams of notes and tapes he collected alongside jackets and ties, filling 10 wardrobes in the cramped apartment he shared with his family.



The gallows at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

"I just remember piles, piles from the floor up to the ceiling," Krzysztof Kulisiewicz said. "He just turned his own life, and ours as well, into archives."

Kulisiewicz's devotion to the project took a toll on his family and eventually cost him his marriage, his son said.

"At some point, my father sim-

ply gave in to the past. ... He thought he had some kind of debt to pay, [that] he owed it to those who died in the camps," said the younger Kulisiewicz. "We could understand it, but at some point we stopped being able to tolerate it."

When his father died, Krzysztof Kulisiewicz sought a

custodian for the vast archives, comprising 100,000 pages of text and 50,000 meters of tape. They ended up at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Kulisiewicz's original 2,200-page manuscript, containing 374 songs, remains in Germany and is to be published in German at a

rate of two volumes a year. The project is sponsored by the Foundation of Brandenburg Memorials, the University of Regensburg and Volkswagen.

The first collection, a volume of songs and accounts from prisoners at Sachsenhausen, is due out in the fall.

For better, and for worse, music was a part of life in concentration camps.

Prisoners were forced to sing at roll call or on work detail, and those who did not sing loudly enough risked a beating. Morsch, the memorial foundation director, said.

Nearly every camp had a prisoner orchestra. The best known was at Theresienstadt in the former Czechoslovakia, where concerts and other cultural activities by the prisoners were staged for foreign visitors. Most of Theresienstadt's inmates were eventually sent to death camps in Poland.

Secretly and defiantly, prisoners formed their own choruses and bands, using smuggled instruments.

At Sachsenhausen, Polish conductor Rosebery d'Arguto formed a Jewish choir that serenaded prisoners with Beethoven before they were packed into trains headed for Auschwitz, where d'Arguto himself perished.

Prisoners also produced song books on pilfered paper. Sachsenhausen inmate

Miechocel Orloff illustrated his with drawings of red-roofed houses and men walking by the sea. Another prisoner, known only by his number, 34770, continued the book after Orloff's death on April 27, 1943, adding songs and drawings of a trumpeting elephant, a fighter plane, a tropical island.

But the fear of discovery was so strong that explicit lyrics like those Kulisiewicz wrote in memory of the three-year-old son of Aaron Liebeskind were relatively rare. Only three in the Sachsenhausen song book, published on the 50th anniversary of the camp's liberation last year, could be called camp songs.

"The people very seldom sang about life in the camps. That was far too dangerous," Morsch said.

To Kulisiewicz, however, the risk brought strength. In his manuscript, Kulisiewicz described what it was to be a concentration-camp prisoner and to sing.

"Everything trembled. My heart wanted to burst from my chest. I felt that we are alive, and that we are Poles, and that here in this horrible place we should sing a song. And not be destroyed. We will not be destroyed."

The address for the Foundation of Brandenburg Memorials, which is publishing the songs, is *Strasse der Nationen 22, 16515 Oranienburg, Germany. (AP)*

## Through silence and tears, they reveal the anguish faced every day

THE survivor and I face each other. As the camera rolls, I ask questions to help him recall fragments of a vanished world.

Do you remember the Jewish community in your town when you were small? How did your family celebrate High Holy Days? What did you hope to do with your life? Did you have a nickname?

I am a volunteer interviewer for The Survivors Of The Shoah Visual History Foundation, established two years ago by filmmaker Steven Spielberg. The goal is to videotape testimonies from Holocaust survivors. Interviews are digitalized in an archive and will be accessible through a computer network.

Some survivors have no one to tell. Others have kept their stories from their families. Perhaps it's easier to confide a secret to a stranger. We don't judge.

One of the most difficult tasks is to hear painful testimonies and remain detached enough to steer the interview in the direction it must go. We have been given guidelines for our work. Generally, one-fifth of the interview is devoted to prewar experiences; three-fifths to wartime and one fifth to postwar life.

In pre-interview research, I learn about a survivor's past. On my own, I research the historical data and double-check significant dates and locations. Accuracy is important. Sometimes, an

older person's memory for dates and spellings can fail.

During the interview, my goal is to gather as much information as possible about the survivor's own life. When did he or she first sense danger? Where was she? What did she see? What happened to her family and friends? This project is a tapestry of stories and every survivor's memory is precious.

Sometimes, I am afraid of what I might hear. I can't appear upset, stop an interview or distract

the survivor. She shouldn't have to see me struggle with my composure, while she wrestles with hers. I am also careful not to press too hard when she pauses.

In the course of a Holocaust survivor's testimony, silence can communicate pain, loss, bewilderment and disbelief. It completes a thought at the end of one recollection and stills the voice at the beginning of the next.

One energetic, composed man in his late 80s easily recalled his youth in Poland, describing his family life, hobbies, friends and work. As we wove our way through his story to the outbreak of war, his voice became quiet. He shared his worst memory: the moment his two-year-old son was

pulled from his arms by a Nazi soldier. The survivor was silent for a long time.

He seemed to be a man with a firm hand over his emotions. It unnerved me to see him cry as he recalled his last sight of his son. Through his silence and tears, he revealed some of the anguish that he lives every day. His pain provoked an urge in me to fill the silence with words. Instead, we sat quietly for a moment and then moved on.

I believe survivors can share their stories with me because I am a stranger. And I have not become friends with those I have interviewed. On each occasion, however, the survivor I interviewed has reached out to embrace me when we parted.

AP/10/1500







APR 16 1996

Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 2.1500 +0.16%
Sterling ... NIS 4.7564 -0.21%
Mark ... NIS 2.0674 -0.45%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes DJ Industrial, DJ Composite, NYSE Index, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, Hang Seng, etc.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table with columns: NYSE / AMEX, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies like Bank Leumi, Koor, etc.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various Israeli stocks like Bank Leumi, Koor, etc.

Two-sided trading

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various Israeli stocks like Bank Leumi, Koor, etc.

Property, Building & Agriculture

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various real estate and agricultural stocks.

Trade & Services

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various trade and service stocks.

Oil Exploration

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various oil exploration stocks.

PARALLEL LIST

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various parallel listed stocks.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Two-sided trading

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various Israeli stocks like Bank Leumi, Koor, etc.

Two-Sided index

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various Israeli stocks like Bank Leumi, Koor, etc.

Maof Index

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various Israeli stocks like Bank Leumi, Koor, etc.

Indexes steady awaiting CPI

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL

188.91 +0.04%
198.65 +0.34%

Two-Sided index Maof Index

Shares rose yesterday as investors awaited the March Consumer Price Index report.

The index came in just below expectations of an increase of 1.1%-1.3%.

On Monday, stocks dropped on concern over accelerating inflation and the potential for higher interest rates.

Investors' expectations for the CPI were "not good to put it mildly," said Moshe Jonas.

The Maof Index rose 0.34% to 198.65, while the Two-Sided Index tacked on 0.04% to 188.91.

The most active stock was Koor Industries Ltd., the country's largest industrial company.

Foods company Osem lost 1.75%, while Elite, a maker of candy and coffee, slipped 1%.

British, German shares close at record highs

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British and German shares zoomed to record highs yesterday.

London stocks closed at 3,790.5 after rising 23.7 points, or 0.63 percent.

Germany's DAX Index earlier closed firm trading at a record 2,545.95.

Wall Street opened firm for the second day, but the rise of the Dow Industrials was limited.

Germany's DAX Index earlier closed firm trading at a record 2,545.95.

The mood is still good, but the market's probably gone as far as it can in the short term.

Dealers were focusing their attention on the regular fortnightly Bundesbank council meeting.

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Dealers were focusing their attention on the regular fortnightly Bundesbank council meeting.

Dow soars as companies report positive earnings

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks soared yesterday as the first-quarter corporate earnings period started in earnest.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up 60.33 points at 5,592.92.

In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines 16-7 on moderate volume of 348 million shares.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Lists various currency exchange rates.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

THE PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table with columns: Name, Price, Chg. Lists various international stocks from NY, London, Paris, Frankfurt, etc.

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table with columns: Point, Last, Change. Lists various dollar crossrates.

Labor rates

Table with columns: Point, Last, Change. Lists various labor rates.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Stocks, Bonds, Futures and Mutual Funds

US commodities

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists various US commodities.

London commodities

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists various London commodities.

Spot market metals (US)

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists various spot market metals.

New York metal futures

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists various New York metal futures.

London metal futures

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists various London metal futures.





# Dinitz convicted of fraud; sentencing next month

**FORMER** Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz was found guilty yesterday of fraud and abuse of public trust for purchasing personal items at the agency's expense. Sentencing was set for next month by Jerusalem District Court.

Dinitz was cleared of charges of misusing his agency-issued American Express card. The court accepted his defense that, while he bought personal items with the credit card, it was the job of Agency bookkeepers to deduct the payments from his salary.

The personal American Express charges amounted to \$15,400, according to testimony at the nearly two-year long trial.

Just over an hour after Dinitz left the courtroom, the trial of another former agency official, Likud MK Meir Sheetrit, began. He is also charged with using agency funds for personal expenses. Sheetrit served as agency treasurer.

The charges Dinitz was convicted of relate to his use of a credit card from the Syms clothing store in New York, whose bills, adding up to \$6,700 for personal items, the agency paid.

"The behavior of the accused in the Syms case was shown to be an extreme case of 'closing one's eyes' that constitutes criminal action," Judge Shalom Brenner wrote in the 152-page decision.

"A person of such standing and with such a position, who is an example to others, must show more awareness and less apathy, and not simply ignore details," Brenner wrote, rejecting Dinitz's argument he thought agency bookkeepers would deduct the expenses from his salary.

Dinitz, 66, was accompanied in the courtroom by his wife and children. He showed little emotion as the verdict was read.

"I need to study the decision before I can comment," Dinitz said as he left the courtroom.

Dinitz was defended by Uri Wagman, who also declined to comment.

After reading his decision, Brenner suggested Dinitz be sentenced later in the day. But he accepted Wagman's request to put off sentencing until May 3. Wagman said he would bring witnesses to testify on Dinitz's behalf at the sentencing hearing.

**Item adds:**

Jewish Agency Treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda said the agency leadership had just heard of the decision from the media, and that a special meeting would be devoted to it after there was time to study the particulars.

He noted, however, that the agency had already drawn the necessary lessons from the affair, and had instituted new procedures, including the cancellation of all institutional credit cards and a more stringent expense accounting system for all employees and emissaries, including board members and senior staffers.

# Yehezkel denies guilt of fraud, other charges

**LABOR** MK Avi Yehezkel, indicted on charges of breach of trust, fraud, falsifying documents and attempted fraud in the 1992 elections, pleaded not guilty in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

After the hearing Yehezkel said he feels like the scapegoat of the whole affair.

"All down the line and for many years I have been left alone," he

never should have been filed.

Yehezkel was indicted at the beginning of February after his parliamentary immunity was lifted by the Knesset House Committee.

According to the indictment, from January until July of 1992, when Yehezkel was the administrative and personnel director of the Histadrut and chairman of the Histadrut-affiliated Re'ut foundation, he fraudulently tried to obtain Histadrut funds for his own primary campaign.

He is accused of instructing former Mifal Tarbut Vehinuch director Uzi Fassa to bill the Histadrut and Re'ut for his campaign expenses by issuing false invoices. Mifalei Tarbut Vehinuch is a Histadrut-owned company which carries out printing and publicity work, including organizing events. Fassa was responsible for taking orders, assigning work, and making and collecting payments for services.

Fassa, who turned state's witness in the case, was sentenced on Sunday to six months' community service after a judge accepted a plea bargain. Fassa is the chief prosecution witness against Yehezkel.

The indictment accuses Yehezkel of ordering Fassa to foot the bill for much of the private work for his campaign, instead of paying it himself. He hired Mifalei Tarbut Vehinuch to organize four events at the beginning of 1992 and billed the company for a victory party held at the Rishon LeZion Country Club.

The case caused a stir within the Histadrut and scores of people, including Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, were questioned. Last week Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair ruled there was insufficient evidence to indict Kessar, although he did say there were irregularities in his behavior. Zichroni also accused the press, acting on leaks from police, of convicting his client before he was even indicted.

aid after the hearing.

His lawyer, Amnon Zichroni, hinted that his line of defense would be that Yehezkel only conformed with the behavioral norms of large organizations. Zichroni slammed the police for what he described as an improper investigation, saying the indictment



Labor MK Avi Yehezkel leaves Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. (Ailon Ron/Israel Sun)

# Peres and Netanyahu to address Agudat Yisrael conference

**SOME** 300 Agudat Yisrael activists will gather at the Kinar guest house on the Kinneret today for three days of discussions which may help determine whether Shimon Peres or Binjamin Netanyahu will carry the haredi vote in the prime ministerial election.

Both Peres and Netanyahu are scheduled to address the conference tomorrow. This is the first time Agudat Yisrael has invited "outside politicians" to address its annual conference. The exception was made because these elections are "fateful," said Zvi Hasid, one of the conference organizers.

Both Netanyahu and Peres are courting the haredi vote, estimated at 200,000-250,000. Polls have given Netanyahu a commanding lead among haredi voters, but he is concerned that leading Aguda rabbis may advise their constituents

**HERB KEINON**

not to vote for non-religious candidates, which would be a boost for Peres.

Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yoef said recently that he will not endorse either candidate, something welcomed by Likud activists, who interpreted this to mean that the Shas faithful will be free to vote for whomever they want. The Shas constituency, according to party head Aryeh Deri, strongly favors Netanyahu.

The Aguda conference will also be addressed by Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer and Ariel Sharon, who served as housing minister under the last Likud government. They are slated to discuss proposed solutions to the haredi housing crunch.

The rabbis of Aguda's Council of Sages will be at the conference's

opening session today. The session will honor the late Gerer rebbe, Pinhas Menahem Alter, who died last month. The rabbis, who eventually will decide whether to endorse a candidate for prime minister, are not scheduled to be at the conference for the politicians' speeches.

Hasid dismissed criticism leveled against Agudat Yisrael for convening the conference on Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day.

"There will not be any orchestras or belly dancers," he said. "The opening session will be dedicated to the late Gerer rebbe, so the tone will be mournful."

The meeting was originally scheduled for March 12, but was postponed after Alter died on March 7. Alter was co-chairman of Aguda's Council of Sages.

# Transportation Ministry to assign brush-up courses for new drivers

**THE** Transportation Ministry announced yesterday that it intends to require new drivers to take a brush-up course two years after getting their licenses.

According to existing regulations, new drivers had to take a brush-up course after three years. In the past year, however, a growing number of new drivers put off taking the course, the ministry said.

Now new drivers are to be issued restricted licenses, valid for two years. If during that period the driver commits a major violation, such as failing to stop

for a stop sign or crossing an unbroken line on the highway, the ministry has the option of making his license renewal dependent on passing written and driving tests, or passing an examination at the Medical Institute for Road Safety.

In addition, no license is to be renewed after the two years pass, unless the driver actually passes a brush-up test. However, soldiers in obligatory service may take the course three years after getting their license.

Haim Shapiro



Former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz in court yesterday. (Isaac Hareli)

# Sneh proposes policy allowing Ethiopians to donate blood

## Navon Commission says his plan contradicts experts' recommendations

**HEALTH** Minister Ephraim Sneh yesterday proposed a much-liberalized policy for blood donations by Ethiopian immigrants that shocked Navon Commission members, whom experts had previously told that blood donations could not be accepted from anyone in this high-risk group.

Sneh, appearing for a second time before the commission formed two months ago to investigate the Ethiopian blood donation affair, suggested blood banks not accept donations from anyone who spent more than a month in the past three years in an area where AIDS is endemic.

These areas are the countries of Central America; Brazil; Thailand; and all African countries except for Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and South Africa.

In addition, blood would not be taken from anyone who had sex with a resident or former resident of one of these countries, or someone who is in a high-risk group for HIV, such as homosexuals, drug addicts, and hemophiliacs.

The Sneh proposal would, in effect, allow Ethiopian immigrants to donate if they immigrated over three years ago and did not have an Ethiopian as a sex partner, but had been infected with HIV from a needle.

Members of the commission, headed by former president Yitzhak Navon, bombarded him with questions.

Health Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai said Sneh consulted a number of medical experts on the proposal, but she would not disclose their names. However, it was learned that no blood experts from MDA - which is responsible for the safety of the nation's blood supply - were involved in its preparation.

At yesterday's session, Prof. Edna Ben-Porat, director of the microbiological lab at Rambam Hospital in Haifa, said there is a "continuous increase in the rate of HIV infection within the Ethiopian community. In the past three months, of 175 former

**JUDY SIEGEL**

Health Ministry officials, as was the directive to rush up the relatively high rate of infection among the community.

"If the ministers were not told by these top-ranking officials, MDA is not to blame," he declared.

He said there was no point in continuing to take blood from Ethiopians and then destroying it without informing them.

According to MDA, six Ethiopians have donated blood since the affair erupted. The blood they donated has been frozen, by Sneh's order, until the commission decides what to do.

Ben-David said that designating a group as high risk for AIDS was unfair to individuals, but that this could not be avoided in efforts to protect the general public from getting deadly transfusions that would give them AIDS.

Only if the "window" of time between infection and the appearance of HIV antibodies in the blood could be closed, so that any carrier could be identified with certainty, even if infected only the day before donating blood, could donors be viewed on an individual basis.

Until then, blood should not be accepted from any Ethiopian immigrant or member of any other high-risk group.

Ethiopian olim checked, eight percent were infected. Last year, 30,000 Israelis were tested for AIDS, including 1,757 Ethiopians. A total of 64 HIV carriers were identified, of them, 54 were Ethiopian immigrants.

Dr. Amnon Ben-David, the director of MDA's blood services, testified for the first time before the commission. Tens of thousands of immigrants have demanded he be dismissed for approving the policy in which their blood was secretly destroyed. His appearance was made possible after the High Court of Justice decided in Ben-David's favor and ordered Adisu Massala, head of the Ethiopian Immigrant Association, to step down from the seven-member commission because he had previously called for Ben-David's dismissal.

Throughout his testimony, the audience, excluding journalists and officials that came to testify, consisted of one middle-aged Ethiopian immigrant.

Ben-David told the commission that MDA's policy of not accepting blood from any Ethiopians - or members of any other high-risk group - was dictated by senior

Health Ministry officials, as was the directive to rush up the relatively high rate of infection among the community.

"If the ministers were not told by these top-ranking officials, MDA is not to blame," he declared.

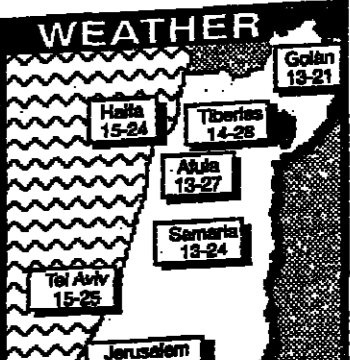
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Forecast: Warmer than normal.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
Amman	26	36	clear
Beirut	24	32	clear
Buenos Aires	20	27	clear
Cairo	20	28	clear
Chicago	26	34	clear
Frankfurt	22	30	partly cloudy
Helsinki	20	28	clear
London	14	18	clear
Los Angeles	18	26	partly cloudy
Madrid	20	28	clear
Moscow	16	24	cloudy
Munich	18	26	partly cloudy
New York	22	30	partly cloudy
Rome	20	28	clear
Stockholm	18	26	partly cloudy
Tel Aviv	22	30	clear
Thessalon	18	26	clear
Tripoli	24	32	partly cloudy
Warsaw	20	28	partly cloudy
Zurich	18	26	clear

# Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, 10 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and 8 of clubs.

# Bodinger postpones Turkey visit

**ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies**

OC Air Force Herzl Bodinger will not visit Turkey tomorrow, despite announcements from Ankara to the contrary, a security official said yesterday. "He's not going to leave in the middle of an intense IDF operation," the official said.

Reuters reported that Bodinger was to visit Turkey today to implement a military exchange accord that much of the Moslem world has attacked as betrayal of solidarity.

Diplomatic sources said Israeli pilots have already begun training flights in Turkey under the agreement.

Turkish military sources said eight Israeli pilots had arrived for training flights, but would not confirm when they arrived.

Israeli technicians are to upgrade more than 50 Turkish F-4 fighter-bombers as part of the cooperation agreement.

Foreign Minister Emre Gonensay rebuffed criticism by the Arabs and Iran. "Turkey does not have to account to anybody for agreements that increase its own defense capabilities," Anatolian news agency quoted him as saying.

Anger at the deal, signed in February but only leaked to the press two weeks ago, has increased since Israel's air and artillery blitz on Hizballah began last week.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said that Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa's cancellation of a visit, set for today, was due to the fighting in Lebanon and not part of the row over the accord.

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